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OPINION METER

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Should the
government go
ahead with a
homestead
project in Marpi?

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INSIDE



Shooting Deaths

A man facing a divorce trial shot and killed his estranged wife, their teenage daughter and two other relatives.

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Rare Shark

Philippine fishermen accidentally caught and later ate a megamouth shark, one of the rarest fishes in the world.

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Idol Week

Adam Lambert has emerged a serious front-runner on the popular "American Idol" competition.

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'Limited' \$45,000 budget could affect LibDay fest. **PAGE 2**

\$20M tax breaks for Laolao Bay resort approved. **PAGE 3**

Turf war over stimulus funds

Who should control stabilization funds?

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trouble is brewing between the Fitial administration and the Public School System over how to allocate millions of dollars in stimulus funds earmarked for education and other government agencies.



Guerrero

Herman Guerrero, Board of Education vice chairman, said he disagrees with Gov. Benigno Fitial's request to transfer authority of the funds from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Last month, Fitial, along with the governors of the U.S.

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'CUC paid highest rate ever for Rydlyme'

Munson strikes testimony of one US govt witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An official of the company that manufactures the descalant chemical Rydlyme testified yesterday that the price charged to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the purchase of the product was the highest ever he

See CUC on Page 4

Lone doctor at Tinian clinic unpaid for four months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne has been working pro bono at the Tinian Health Center the past four months after failing to receive his salary since transferring there at the start of



Wijayagunaratne

the year.

Saipan Tribune learned of the doctor's dilemma yesterday based on communications sent by Tinian administrative officer Connie Manglona to the Office of Budget and Management, a copy of which was obtained by the Tribune.

A call to Dr. Wijayagunaratne yesterday confirmed the report.

He refused, however, to pin the blame on anyone, saying that situations like this "happen sometimes" in any office or work.

"It is my understanding that they are working on it [now]," he said.

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MARIANAS TRADES INSTITUTE GRADUATES 24

'If you work hard, nothing is impossible'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Yan Che Pangelinan, 30, didn't have a

car so she walked to school for at least 20 minutes and another 20 minutes back home every weekday for over three months. To pay for her tuition,

she would clean the school building, the yard and the restrooms. The single mother persevered, and she was able

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Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, Labor deputy secretary Cinta M. Kaipat, Northern Marianas Trades Institute president Anthony Pellegrino and NMTI board secretary Eileen Pellegrino pose with most of the 24 students who completed their studies at the Marianas Trades Institute, at a graduation ceremony in Lower Base on Tuesday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Easter Big Sale!

April 10-11, 2009

10-20 % off Variety Items

Electronics ● Household ● Kitchenwares ● Toys ● Car Accessories
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Pet Supplies ● Stationary and many many more items.....

IN FEDERALIZATION LAWSUIT

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security last week announced it

Second, the Commonwealth's principal harm "will occur on the effective date of the Act, and key planning decisions are being made now," according to the brief. DHS must merely "consult" the governor on how to establish, administer and enforce a system for issuing

"In addition, as the CNMI has demonstrated through its un rebutted evidence, the Act's mandatory reduction of the number of nonimmigrant workers to zero already is causing effects on investment and business decisions in the Commonwealth, and the adverse economic consequences will only increase as this critical segment of the existing workforce and population of the CNMI is eliminated, as required by the Act," the brief stated.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Preparations for the festival

Tudela said at press time they're still looking for candidates for the Liberation Day queen and royal courts and the steering committee had just been formed. Because the celebration is just two months away, the mayor believes the sale of tickets for the candidates may also be affected.

Breakdown of the projected \$80,900 revenue in 2008 included \$38,400 from booth fees; \$10,000 from ticket sales; and \$50,000 from the SLL 15-1 minus the previous year's collection of \$17,500.

This will also clarify the job descriptions for administrative

See NURSING on Next Page

Lawmakers hesitant on austerity measures

By KRISTI EATON

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REPORTER

With the possibility of federal stimulus funds covering the cost of government payroll for the rest of the fiscal years, members of the Legislature are hesitant to enact austerity measures.

The Fitial administration has repeatedly called on lawmakers to enact measures such as unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays in an effort to avoid mass furloughs, even drafting a bill that was introduced in the House of Representatives in February.

Lawmakers had seemed somewhat open to the idea lately until news broke last week that Gov. Benigno Fitial was planning on using a discretionary portion of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to cover payroll costs.

The fund, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, appropriates money to states and territories for education and other government services. (see related story)

The CNMI, according to the administration, is poised to receive \$43 million in stabilization funds. Fitial plans on using \$8 million, or the maximum 18 percent in government services funds allowed under the law, to pay employee salaries. Last week Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said the CNMI could expect to see the earmarked funds

in 30 to 45 days.

The Legislature has been opposed to austerity measures like unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays until the size of the government is reduced or hiring is frozen.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the administration is disappointed lawmakers are not pursuing austerity measures and are instead relying on the stimulus money.

"We believe it would be prudent to implement austerity measures that should have been implemented years ago," the press secretary said, adding that federal funds like the stimulus package and cover over money will not go on forever.

Last week Fitial said someone must like the administration, noting that in Fiscal Year 2008 a last minute payment of \$17 million in cover over funds from the Internal Revenue Service gave the government a slight surplus. The \$17 million was a part of a total of \$50 million the CNMI received, he said.

"Again it's a relationship. I went to the Treasury, and I spoke to the right people, and they came through," the governor added.

Enacting austerity measures now will allow the government a safety net, Reyes said.

"It would behoove us to be safe, to have a margin of safety," he added.

\$20M tax breaks for Laolao Bay resort approved

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved the modified qualifying certificate that will provide up to \$20 million in tax breaks to Saipan Laulau Development Inc., the firm that acquired and upgraded the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

In the amended QC, the government approved the abatement of business gross revenue tax for 20 years. The abatement shall equal 100 percent of BGRT above the current tax base. The company was also granted 100 percent rebate on any excise tax paid to the CNMI government after the effective date of the QC and up to the start of operations. Saipan Laulau is also entitled to a hundred percent rebate on

any developer infrastructure tax paid to the government.

Part of the conditions set by the CNMI government is for the company to remain a community-conscious and civic-minded business: The company is required to design and implement an internship program for CNMI residents for them to learn skills and build careers in the golf course resort industry.

On an annual basis, the Laulau Bay company is also required to contribute not less than \$100,000 to community-based public programs and activities.

Saipan Tribune learned that the governor approved the modification on March 16, three days after he received the Commonwealth Development Authority's recommendation.

Saipan Laulau was first granted a qualifying certificate in September 2008, with \$18 million tax breaks. Because of the risks associated with its investment during a period of uncertainty and a highly competitive tourism industry, Saipan Laulau asked for a modification, initially asking for \$22 million in tax benefits and then raising it to \$27 million in 2008.

The CDA board initially approved \$18 million. The CDA board proposed changes to the QC rules and regulations to accommodate the Laulau Bay request. On March 5, 2009, CDA approved the request—for \$20 million.

Saipan Laulau president Kim Yun said yesterday they are elated with the decision of the CDA and the governor. He said the

modified QC is important as it will help them fulfill their commitment to the CNMI.

Despite the global recession and the depreciation of the Korean won, Kim said Saipan Laulau and its affiliate companies on island are serious in their investment.

The company president said that outside of the \$54 million investment for Laolao Bay Golf Resort, over \$5 million will also be spent to build five villas at the Laulau Resort.

The target completion of all the project's phases is before the end of 2010.

Saipan Laulau is an affiliate company of Kumho Group, which also owns Asiana Airlines. Early this year, the company unveiled its multimillion-dollar clubhouse and pathways.



Celebrating Easter at the Hyatt

The warm and wonderful season of Easter begins at Hyatt with a display of our big and colorful Easter Egg at the lobby on April 9th.

Easter Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace

Easter Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace shall offer an assortment of culinary delights, sure to provide an unforgettable dining experience.

Sunday, April 12th

10:30am - 2:00pm

\$45.00 per person including beers, wines and sparkling wine

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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Children of all ages will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt and other exciting games together with a very special guest who will hop in just for the occasion, the Easter Bunny!

Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 12:00 noon and 1:30pm

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NURSING

From Page 2

assistants that the board wants to hire soon.

The administrative support staff that the nursing board needs will not only answer the phone, check e-mails, and do filing.

Camacho said the board needs permanent people to put together the National Council Licensure Examination applications, process submitted NCLEX documents and credentials, and fully understand the process of getting a nurse license for the applicants. (Haid-ee V. Eugenio)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES RFQ09-GOV-062

Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Conceptual Study

The previously advertised notice Requesting for Qualifications ("RFQ") for the provisions of civil engineering services for the conceptual examination of alternative methods to resolve the Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Issues has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend the time schedule as provided in the Scope of Work (Section II E). The amended time schedule is as follows:

1. Meet with stakeholders and review existing studies 45 days
2. Quantification of Garapan Storm Water Issues 100 days
3. Analysis and Recommendation 180 days

All other elements of the RFQ remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement 1356 Mednilla Ave. Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting James R. Stump at 664-2402 or JRStump@CNMILaw.com..

IF YOU

From Page 1

to complete a basic sewing course. She hopes to find a job soon.

"If we work hard enough, nothing is impossible," said a tearful Pangelinan, her compelling story earning the praise of the crowd that included Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, lawmakers, parents and students.

Because of her patience and hard work, she was able to inspire six other jobless people to also attend school.

Pangelinan was one of the 24 students who received their certificates of course completion from the Northern Marianas Trade Institute in Lower

Base on Tuesday night.

Anthony Pellegrino, president of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and owner of several businesses in the CNMI including Saipan Ice & Water and Saipan SyAqua, led the presentation of certificates to the 24 graduates of three classes: 13 in core curriculum A taught by Ignacio Camacho; six in core curriculum B taught by Mike Anthony; and five in basic sewing taught by Susana Paras, owner and manager of F&S Creations.

"We have completed a milestone. ... We will be able to join workers on jobs we're interested in and jobs where we are needed," Pangelinan said. "I am a single parent, I have a 5-year-old son, and I would do anything for him. I didn't have a car so I walk to school.

...I want to become somebody to show my son."

Pangelinan came to Saipan in 1998 to work as a sewer at the now defunct Neo Fashion. She married in 2000 and gave birth to a boy. In May 2007, her husband beat her up and subjected her to abuse, she said, forcing her to separate from him.

Now a single parent, Pangelinan, who lost her garment job, said food stamp is not enough to feed her and her son, so she looked for a job that also gave her a chance to study.

"I thank the Northern Marianas Trades Institute for giving the chance. I have an opportunity that I would otherwise not have," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, said NMTI is a new but promising institution; one

that fills a void that existed for many years. He said in the past, the community was focused on the traditional academic model of education.

With NMTI, the educational system has expanded to embrace technical and vocational training.

"You should all be proud of yourselves for having the discipline to commit to the completion of this program," the governor told the graduates.

He also lauded Pellegrino and other founders of NMTI "for having the courage and the vision to establish this trade school for the benefit of our local workforce."

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremonies, said schools and the government can provide the education and training, but

it's up to students "to make sure your success are in your hands."

"Your skills as tradesmen and tradeswomen will move the Commonwealth to a brighter future. ... You'll be among our most importance workforce," he said.

On March 31, Fitial signed a local bill into law that allows more local students to benefit from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship. Saipan Local Law 16-8 will help attract more local students to trade schools like the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, said Quitugua, author of the bill.

Salmino A. Santos, a core curriculum A graduate, called on the government and the public to help the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and its students.

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CUC

From Page 1

has heard of.

As this developed, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered that all statements of U.S. government witness James Simmons of the Acculube Industrial Products in Los Angeles, California, be stricken off the record.

During direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Mark Bickler, vice president of the Illinois-based Apex Engineering Products Corp., said that, except for the CUC transactions, the highest price for Rydlyme that he is aware of was \$25 per gallon.

Bickler said he never heard of \$40 a gallon for Rydlyme until the CUC case came up. He said it was also in the CUC transactions where he heard of \$35 per gallon.

ISLAS Micronesia and Blue Pacific allegedly charged CUC \$35 and \$40 per gallon for six transactions involving the purchase of Rydlyme.

James Santos owns ISLA Marianas, while his wife, Joaquina Santos, owns Blue Pacific. The Santos couple are co-defendants with Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez in the case involving the alleged needless purchase of thousands of gallons of Rydlyme.

Besides Bickler, William J. Powell of Rydlyme Pacific Inc. in Hawaii, the distributor of Rydlyme for ISLA Marianas Sales and Blue Pacific, also took the witness stand for the U.S. government.

Bickler said he has personal knowledge of the CUC transactions beginning in 1997 or 1998 when their company shipped their product to Saipan. He said their company shipped Rydlyme to Saipan four to six times.

Bickler said Powell is their marketing representative, whom they would pay a commission or a discount. In the CUC transactions, Powell got both—a commission and discount, he said.

At that time, Apex's list price for Rydlyme was \$49.50 per five gallons or about \$9.95 a gallon. Bickler said Powell would mark up the price when selling to his customers. He said they can't

dictate the prices set by their representatives but they usually recommend a price range.

With respect to the last transaction in 2007, Bickler said he received an e-mail from James Santos requesting for a quotation for the purchase of Rydlyme. The quotes were for 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme.

Bickler recognized a document shown him in court as a \$30,676 billing that Apex sent ISLA for 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme. He said the amount includes shipping costs.

The 2007 CUC contract called for payment of \$120,000 to Blue Pacific.

Bickler described the sending of four CUC employees to their plant for training as "a little out of the ordinary."

Rydlyme is a chemical product for removing mineral deposits in engines.

Nothing to say

Judge Munson granted yesterday the defense's motion to strike the testimony of Simmons of the Acculube Industrial Products, saying his testimony has nothing to do with the case. Simmons' company sells chemicals similar to Ry-

dlyme.

O'Malley explained that Simmons' testimony showed that there are alternative product in the market for Rydlyme at a much lesser price.

During cross-examination by Villagomez counsel, David J. Lujan, Simmons agreed that he has nothing to say about all six CUC transactions for Rydlyme.

Simmons also admitted that the U.S. government is shouldering his expenses during his stay on Saipan.

Lujan ended his cross-examination by telling the witness, "Enjoy the rest of your stay here on Saipan. Thank you very much."

Attorney Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, asked Simmons if he is enjoying his stay on the island at the taxpayers' expense.

"Yes," Simmons replied.

Saipan visit

Powell testified that in his transactions with ISLAS Micronesia for the purchase of Rydlyme in a five-year period, he profited \$15,000 to \$16,000.

Powell said he first met Santos in

early 1998 or late 1997 when he was marketing Rydlyme for CUC. He was unsure whether he met Villagomez when he did a small presentation about Rydlyme at CUC in June or July 1998.

Powell admitted receiving a call from the Rota power plant, complaining about damage to the cylinders caused by Rydlyme. He said he and another person came to Saipan in January 1999 to investigate, with Santos paying for his airfare and lodging at the Hyatt Regency.

Earlier yesterday, CUC power generation division's purchasing supervisor Joaquin Martin Cruz also testified for the U.S. government.

Cruz said when they received the Rydlyme in 1998, he did not request for the product.

Shown by the prosecution with documents, Cruz recognized them as request vouchers for Rydlyme that he prepared upon the instruction coming from the "signal" Jose S. Demapan, who was then the chief acting manager of power division; and from William M. Borja, who also served as then acting manager at the power division.

LONE

From Page 1

Documents obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* claim that the Tinian Health Center has been sending documentations and justifications on Dr. Wijayagunaratne's salary to the OMB but these were not acted upon.

Because of the delayed salary, the Tinian hospital management believes that this leaves their only doctor on Tinian "in the totally untenable situation"

of being forced to work without compensation, which according to one is "unethical and most likely not entirely legal."

It was learned that the Tinian clinic's management had inquired with OMB assistant Esther Fleming why the authorization for the doctor's salary was being held up.

The absence of acknowledgements to the sent documents as well as phone calls that were not returned reportedly led Tinian clinic officials to assume that personnel action authorization was

already being taken cared of by OMB.

Saipan Tribune failed to get Fleming's take on the issue as calls to her phone were not returned as of press time. Calls made to Tinian Health Center resident director Ernie Hofschneider were not returned as of press time. Connie Manglona was reportedly off-island.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola expressed surprise yesterday after finding out about the physician's delayed salary.

Mendiola vowed to immediately

contact and communicate with OMB and the Governor's Office to straighten out the matter.

"They should not be doing that...because he's the only doctor we have to treat our people. The delegation is not aware of it," said Mendiola, adding that as far as the Tinian Legislative Delegation is concerned, money for the doctor's position has been allocated.

The chairman explained that the salary will come from the government's general fund through the Tinian municipality's personnel account.

"The money [to pay for his salary] should be there...unless there's some reprogramming that we don't know [of]," he said.

Mendiola vowed to get to the bottom of the issue so that the doctor will get his compensation on time.

"We cannot put the welfare of our people in jeopardy. This is something that we need to immediately address because it involves the direct delivery of services to our people," the senator said.

Mendiola described the situation as unacceptable.

TURF

From Page 1

Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa, wrote to President Obama asking to let Interior administer the stabilization funds.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act states that \$48.6 billion will be distributed among the states and territories. Of the money each jurisdiction receives, 81.8 percent must go toward education, while the remaining 18.2 percent can go to public safety and other government services, including assistance for elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education. It can also be used for modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities and higher education facilities.

Last week Fitial said he would use

the 18.2 percent to cover the payroll costs for government employees for the rest of the fiscal year. The administration estimates the CNMI will receive \$43 million in total funds.

Guerrero said he is opposed to Interior controlling and disbursing the money.

"I'm not interested in DOI having the funds. We still want U.S. [Department of] Education to have control because we've been working with them," he said, noting PSS and BOE officials earlier met with officials from the Department of Education in Washington D.C.

Fitial noted in the letter with the other governors that the stimulus law mandates the Secretary of Education to consult with the Secretary of the Interior on the needs and conditions of the funds.

"By including this requirement, Congress recognized that the outlying areas, in fact, have unique needs that

may be better understood and better addressed by [Interior] which has the most historical and administrative experience with the island territories," the letter said.

The Board of Education is drafting its own letter to Obama, saying they don't agree with Fitial and, under the Constitution, education is the responsibility of the BOE, Guerrero said.

The status of the application is also in question, the vice chair said. PSS finished the application last month ahead of the deadline, but is not sure where it stands now. All stimulus fund applications must filter through the Governor's Office, as the governor of each jurisdiction must request the money or a joint resolution must be passed by the Legislature asking for any stimulus money.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said he was contacting Mike Ada, Secretary of the

Department of Commerce, about the status of the application. Ada is overseeing the CNMI's stimulus effort.

PSS may have some reservations, Reyes said.

"They may want to get money directly," the press secretary said. "We heard they may not be happy because everything has to go through the Governor's Office. My feedback, what I heard, is PSS administration wants to have direct control. There may be some sort of turf battle going on. We're going to try to work it out, because I think there might be some kind of misunderstanding."

There will be less hassle if the U.S. Department of Education distributes the money, Guerrero said.

Moreover, Fitial didn't have the courtesy to tell PSS he was writing Obama asking the Interior to take control of the funds, the vice chair said.

"He's doing things behind our back

without proper consultation," Guerrero said of Fitial.

The Education Department recently released new guidelines for the release of the stabilization funds. Within two weeks of receiving the application, 67 percent of the jurisdiction's total stabilization fund (made up of both the education and government services component) will be allocated.

The remaining 33 percent will be received in the second phase, after the jurisdiction submits, and the Education Department approves, a comprehensive plan. The department anticipates disbursing the phase two funds by Sept. 30, 2009. If a jurisdiction proves the 67 percent funding received during phase one is not enough to stave off the immediate layoffs of personnel by school districts, higher education institutions, or state or local agencies, up to 90 percent of the total stabilization funds can be delivered.

Alien workers not giving up hope on better status

YCO Corp. says Island Medical never paid rent

YCO Corp. has sued the owner of Island Medical Center for allegedly refusing to pay rent for YCO's commercial building in Susupe.

YCO sued Micronesia Health Corp., owner of Island Medical Center, and five unnamed co-defendants for fraud and unjust enrichment.

The plaintiff asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

YCO lawyer Brien Sers Nicholas stated in the complaint that YCO and MHC executed a lease of a commercial building agreement on Oct. 30, 2008. Under the agreement, MHC was to lease 3,500 square feet of commercial space in a building owned by YCO in Susupe.

MHC agreed to pay a monthly rental of \$3,000; payment of \$3,000 in security deposit; and an additional payment of \$3,000 as utility deposit.

Nicholas said MHC took possession of the commercial space, but only gave YCO a check in the amount of \$3,000 as a security deposit. It never paid the additional \$3,000 for utility deposit, the lawyer added.

"YCO, upon receiving the check from MHC, deposited the check into its business account, only to be informed that MHC did not have sufficient funds in its account to cover the check. As such, the check was returned to YCO,"

Nicholas said.

"MHC, all the while, continued to possess and occupy the premises, using utilities from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. under YCO's account and without paying for them," he added.

In light of MHC's non-payment of its utility usages, Nicholas said, CUC deducted the sum of \$2,929.87 from the plaintiff's utility deposit with CUC to cover MHC's utility usages.

He said his client made efforts to have MHC vacate the premises and to pay for its illegal occupancy of the building as well as its utility usages.

Nicholas said MHC, in response, promised that payments were forthcoming—a promise that eventually turned out to be false.

To date, he said, MHC has continued to illegally occupy the premises without any payments whatsoever to plaintiff.

"MHC knew or should have known at the time it made its representation to plaintiff that the same was false in that it did not have the financial means to allow it to enter into such a lease arrangement with plaintiff," the lawyer said.

Last January, Golden Bird Corp., a company that rents out commercial space, also sued MHC for allegedly failing to pay rent for its leased space, also in Susupe, and for leaving the premises in bad condition. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Group calls for meeting, wants to meet with DHS reps

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed said they are not giving up hope that long-term foreign workers, overstayers with unpaid wages, foreign parents with U.S. citizen children, and immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens applying for green card will get an improved status under a federal immigration system.

In an interview, Syed said the group wants to meet with representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to bring up their concerns related to federalization.

Syed yesterday called on all leaders of guest workers and "individuals with ideas" to the meeting where they will discuss "issues and concerns pertaining to the delay in the implementation of federalization."

On March 31, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano delayed by 180 days the start of transition to federal immigration in the CNMI—from the original schedule of June 1 to Nov. 28, 2009.

The extension means the CNMI will continue to administer its own immigration system

until Nov. 28, and the proposed joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which excludes the emerging Chinese and Russian markets, will not go into effect until Nov. 28.

Syed said the meeting will be on April 11, Saturday, 6:30pm at Winchell's in Susupe.

He urged workers "to share good ideas on how we can be united as one," so that by working together, they "will always make some difference."

"Your ideas and effort will enhance our movement. We may be able to achieve our goal which is an 'improved status'

for all nonresident workers living in the CNMI if we will come together and show our unified stand. Please be with us. Now is the time, the right time, to move for a common cause," Syed said.

The 180-day delay in the start of transition will allow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to draft and release the remaining regulations relating to the federalization law, and allow enough time for the public to comment.

Only the proposed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program has been released for public comment, not the regulations relating to foreign workers, investors, students and retirees.



Syed

Easter at PIC

April 12, 2009

Easter Blast

**A full day of activities
from 10am to 6pm including
Egg Decoration at 11am,
the great Easter Egg Hunt
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**Must purchase a Waterpark pass
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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPW-066**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 28, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PEST CONTROL SERVICES - TRANSFER STATION
AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF)"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2009 AT DPW - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE IN WRITING TO MR. BLAS T. MAFNAS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-2762, NO LATER THAN APRIL 17, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-RDLNR-056**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRACTORS AND ACCESSORIES - CIF - ROTA
FOR THE ROTA DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS
MAYOR OF ROTA

'No to abolition of Article 12'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb yesterday said concerns about discrimination can be addressed without totally abolishing Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution as proposed by the Citizens for Change of Article 12.

He said he agrees with CCART12's call for the people to take a closer look at what Article 12 is all about.

"However, I disagree with the group's approach to completely abolish Article 12 via their reasons. Concerns raised by the CCART12 can still be addressed without the com-

plete abolition. They seem to imply that because 'Article 12 is discriminatory' therefore our Covenant is in essence such," Tebuteb said.

Article 12 restricts the fee simple sale of CNMI real property exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent and other constitutionally qualified

individuals based on certain political definitions.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986.

That 25-year period will end in 2011.

CCART12, led by Efrain F. Camacho and Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan, has been meeting with business

groups, students and other community members to educate them on what they describe as the discriminatory nature of Article 12, among other things. The group wants the land alienation provision scrapped come 2011.

Tebuteb said one needs to also understand that the fundamental basis of the Covenant can be found in the three principles articulated in Article 12

which he said are land acquisition, long term ownership and Northern Marianas descent.

"My overall take on this matter is for our community to comprehend the two extremes of this compelling issue. That is where you also come in. So much so that we all understand the pros and cons of any issue in order for us to create a win-win situation..." Tebuteb added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

No Puengin Inetnon this Friday

The next Puengin Inetnon for Kagman will be held on Friday, April 24. There will be no Friday Night Market on April 10 due to the observance of Good Friday. There will also be no Saturday Flea Market on April 11. (PR)

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would

like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

Meeting for Palauans on Saipan

The Palau Community Association is calling a meeting for all Palauans on Saipan, this coming

Saturday, April 11, 2009. The meeting will be held at BAI SITE (Navy Hill), 10am. PCA is humbly requesting the participation of all Palauans to show up this Saturday. *Medodak arengud e de sisichii a Belau er kid.* (PR)

CPA sets triennial disaster drill

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is holding their Triennial Disaster Drill Exercise on April

15, 2009, from 9am to about 12pm. This drill allows CPA and other CNMI government agencies to review and assess procedures that are to be adhered to,

to safely respond to a disaster, should it occur at the Saipan International Airport. This year's drill includes an aircraft incident scenario. Emergency vehicles

from different agencies will be traveling to and from the Saipan International Airport for the duration of this drill and for the public not to be alarmed. (CPA)

IF YOU

From Page 4

Speaking of the students' patience and hard work, Santos said, "Some of them had no rides, some of them came to school without a book or a pen...But they leave the school with knowledge."

Stallone Defang, 21, who completed core curriculum B, said he learned a lot from attending school, and is waiting for a SHEFA scholarship to pay for his tuition. He will continue his studies at NMTI.

"I want to put up my own business providing carpentry, plumbing, electrical and mechanical services," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rose L. Igitol, student counselor at NMTI, said the core curriculum courses teach students basic safety, construction math, employee ability skills, communication skills, and introduction to hand tools, power tools, blueprint reading and rigging, among other things.

Collier N. Siksei, 36, was among those who completed core curriculum B. He said

he will continue his studies at NMTI to become a certified technician. "It's still a long way for me to go...but NMTI opened the door for me," he said.

'Do not give up'

At 40, Herman I. Okaruru Jr. was among the eldest students at NMTI, but he said he doesn't mind at all. Just like the others, Okaruru said he will continue his studies for two years and eight months to become a certified electrician to be able to work again. He said he's a former lineman at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a long time ago.

"I encourage people on the island not to give up on their desires...The NMTI is important to our future," he added.

The core curriculum A graduates are: Max S. Keller, Juan R. Limes, John Roman Lisua, Custer N. Madracheluib, Vincent R. Mendiola, Jason L. Nekaifes, Joaquin Pangelinan, Michael Clinton A. Reyes, Misaël L. Romolor, Jesse Elroy C. Santos, Jerrimey H. Solomon, and Jesse John Stephen.

The six core curriculum B

graduates are: Kay M. Amandus, Stallone Defang, Young S. Lim, Herman I. Okaruru Jr., Collier N. Siksei, and JR S. Welley.

Completing the basic sewing course are: Karternia E. Achime, Augustina P. Jaimatoon, Yan Che Pangelinan, Juana L. Pua, and Nieves O. Romolor.

Pellegrino and the other NMTI board members also presented certificates to the donors of the school, including Carl Brachear, Bank of Saipan, Construction & Material Supplies Inc., Duty Free Saipan Limited, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute, established on April 1, 2008, is a private, non-profit organization designed to provide local residents with the training and skills necessary to become skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen. NMTI, under the sponsorship of the Guam Contractors Association Trades Academy, has been designated a National Center for Construction Education and Research Accredited Training Unit since September 2008.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its 2nd Quarter meeting on Monday, April 13, 2009, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Presence of Quorum
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - B. Adoption of Minutes – 03/20/09 meeting

II. Orientation

III. Parent Survey Work Session

IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Social Education Coordinator



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 17th birthday to Paterno Songao Hocog Jr.! "Our wishes for you on your special day: We wish you would always be happy, forever healthy, and that your life be filled with everything that brings you laughter and love. We wish you a life where your dreams come true and your goals are achieved. We love you!" With many blessings, Angie and John (Joshua and John Jr.), Andrei and Leng (Dee), Carrie and Vito Jr., PJ, and Patty Beth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sex offenders: Contact DPS for registration

The Department of Public Safety yesterday asked all persons convicted of a sexual crime in the CNMI to contact DPS as soon as possible for their registration as sex offenders.

The DPS Sex Offender Registry Unit is currently reviewing the papers of 122 convicted sex offenders.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogomoro said all sex offenders in the Commonwealth who have not registered or updated their registration should do so.

Any person convicted of a sexual crime is required to register as sex offenders under Public Law 11-104.

The law mandates DPS, Adult Probation, and the Office of Parole to register, update, photograph, fingerprint, and keep on file all informa-

tion about these offenders and to share, coordinate, and update other law enforcement agencies.

Ogomoro said all offenders who are in violation of the law are advised to update their registration documents to avoid a year of imprisonment and up to a \$1,000 fine.

Ogomoro said any person with questions may contact Police Officers Jason Tarkong and Kelly Camacho at the DPS Sex Offender Registry Unit at 664-9026.

"For those living on Tinian, you may contact Police Officer Wally Villagomez at 433-9222, and for those living on Rota, you may contact Police Officer Jonathan Garces at 532-9526," Ogomoro said.

DPS underscored the importance of sex offenders who believe that their criminal records are already cleared to contact DPS so their names will not longer appear on the Registry. (Ferdie de la Torre)

'Remove Tinian monarch from endangered list'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is proposing to remove the Tinian monarch from the list of CNMI locally designated endangered and threatened species.

The proposal is listed on the recently released March Commonwealth Register. The public can comment through the end of April.

The removal of the bird from the list is consistent with the removal of the species from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

The Tinian monarch was removed from the Fish and Wildlife list effective Sept. 21, 2004.

Comments can be mailed to: Dr. Ignacio T. dela Cruz, Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Attn: New Regulations 2008, Caller box 10007, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, MP 96950.

Comments can also be emailed to dlrsec@pticom.com or faxed to 670-322-2633.

Other locally designated and endangered species include:

Birds

- Micronesia megapode
- Common moorhen
- Guam swiftlet
- Marianas crow
- Nightingale Reed-Warbler
- Rota Bridled White-eye

Mammals

- Marianas Fruit bat
- Sheath-tailed bat
- Reptiles
- Green sea turtle
- Hawksbill turtle
- Micronesia gecko

Plants

- Fire tree
- Cat's tail or Disciplina


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DEQ raises red flag on two Tinian sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on two beach sites on Tinian—Unai Masalok Beach and Leprosarium II—and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said samples from the two locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Ma-

rine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm

drainage every Wednesday. This week, the agency analyzed samples from 10 locations on the island.

DEQ raised the green flag on the waters surrounding Managaha Island after none of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI marine Water Quality Standards. DEQ also assigned a green flag to Saipan beaches.

Marine water reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. (PR)

Frank Cable sailors to volunteer islandwide

SANTA RITA, Guam—Approximately 400 sailors from USS *Frank Cable* will volunteer at various schools, villages and beaches today, April 9, from 9am to 2pm, as part of the Navy's Community Relations Program.

Sailors will volunteer at the following locations:

■ Piti Mayor's Office: Grass trimming, landscaping, paint-

ing bus stops and beach trash pickup;

■ Veteran's Cemetery in Piti: Grass trimming and painting;

■ Talofoto Mayor's Office: Clean village beaches by bush cutting and trimming vegetation;

■ Okkodo High School in Dededo: Work with staff and faculty to assemble book shelves in classrooms and the

library;

■ George Washington High School in Mangilao: Assist with interior and exterior general maintenance including grass trimming, scrubbing passageways and painting rooms;

■ Mangilao Mayor's Office: Upkeep baseball field including grass trimming, placing field markers, and cleaning and painting school bus stops in the

village; and

■ Price Elementary School in Mangilao: Paint school hallways.

As the U.S. Pacific Fleet's only operational submarine tender, *Frank Cable* deploys to ports throughout the Western Pacific to provide services to both submarines and surface ships in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 9, 2001

CNMI to receive millions more in tobacco funds

All tobacco manufacturers will be required to deposit substantial amount of money to a proposed trust fund which will finance future cigarette-related medical services that may be needed by CNMI smokers. The Senate on Friday passed legislation that will require even those who are non-participants to the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement to deposit money into the to-be established escrow fund. Under the proposed measure, all tobacco manufacturers whose products are being sold in the Northern Marianas market will be forced to participate in the Master Settlement Agreement.

US House leaders' support in the bag

House Speaker Ben Fitial yesterday enjoyed another successful day in his visit to Washington DC, having received the support of the powerful US Committees on House Resources and on Appropriations. Mr. Fitial's second day on Capitol Hill included a meeting with Chairman James Hansen (R-UT), the new leader of the House Committee on Resources, the legislative body with jurisdiction over US territories, including CNMI. The speaker raised with Mr. Hansen the need for flexibility in the application of certain federal environmental laws, noting that some laws have a disproportionate impact on the economic development in areas such as the CNMI.

April 9, 2002

Hotel industry slowly picking up

The CNMI hotel industry recorded a slow but steady growth in the first three months of 2002, a positive indicator that the tourism industry is beginning to recover from the adverse effects of the September 11 attacks. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday disclosed that hotel occupancy rate in the period covering January-March 2002 registered a slight increase from the same quarter in 2001. HANMI posted a 69-percent room occupancy rate in the first three months of the year, 9 percent higher than the previous year of the same period's 60 percent HANMI officials, however, said that the 69-percent occupancy rate remains below the normal level.

Park touts own water facility

Dissatisfied with the water supplied by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with regards to both adequacy and potability, the American Memorial Park is planning to put up its own water facility to supply the needs of the 133-acre park, using federal fund amounting to about \$1 million. This was disclosed by Chuck Sayon, the park's site manager and ranger. The park is an area controlled by the National Park Service, an agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior. "The project is to supply to the park and its patrons a potable water system. Basically the water we get—the quantity and quality of water from our local utility—doesn't satisfy the park's needs, and we were audited by our public health officers from the National Park Service that said we needed to provide a potable water system for the park," Sayon said.


April 9, 2003

NMI-wide briefing on SARS launched

The CNMI Department of Public Health, alarmed over the threat of SARS, posts an advisory at the hospital entrance. CNMI public health officials flew to Rota yesterday to hold medical and logistical briefings about the fast-spreading deadly disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS. "They are holding these briefings on Rota and Tinian to educate and best prepare our communities," said acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday. The team, which met with local government authorities on Rota, was headed by Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider and medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom who also heads the CNMI SARS Response and Preparedness team.

Will Babauta's '04 budget suffer the ax?

Stressing that one must heed realities, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider implied yesterday that the lower chamber may eventually pass a Fiscal Year 2004 budget that could be substantially lower than the \$228 million proposed by the Babauta administration. This is because the budget proposal, which is \$11-million higher than this current fiscal year's allotment, hinges much of the anticipated increase on an array of tax increases that have already been rejected by House members when it was presented to them previously. The lower house had rejected the Integrated Fiscal Plan—an economic stimulus package that Babauta submitted to the Legislature in February.



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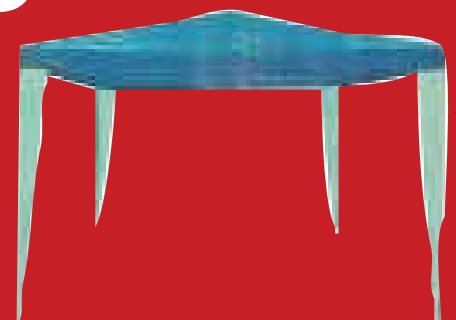
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Bringing home a mixed bag

As President Obama toured Europe and Turkey in recent days, he dazzled leaders and audiences with his rhetorical gifts and began the long process of restoring the United States' badly damaged prestige. To Europeans still smarting from Bush administration ultimatums, Obama was conciliatory, even humble. "We exercise our leadership best when we are listening ... when we lead by example, when we show some element of humility," he said. To overcome a legacy of unilateralism, Obama stressed the need for "partnerships" at various multilateral venues -- a summit of G-20 economic leaders, a 60th-anniversary celebration of NATO and a meeting of European Union leaders. And yet he returns home with a mixed bag of results: applause and admiration but few commitments from allies wary of U.S. power and bluster.

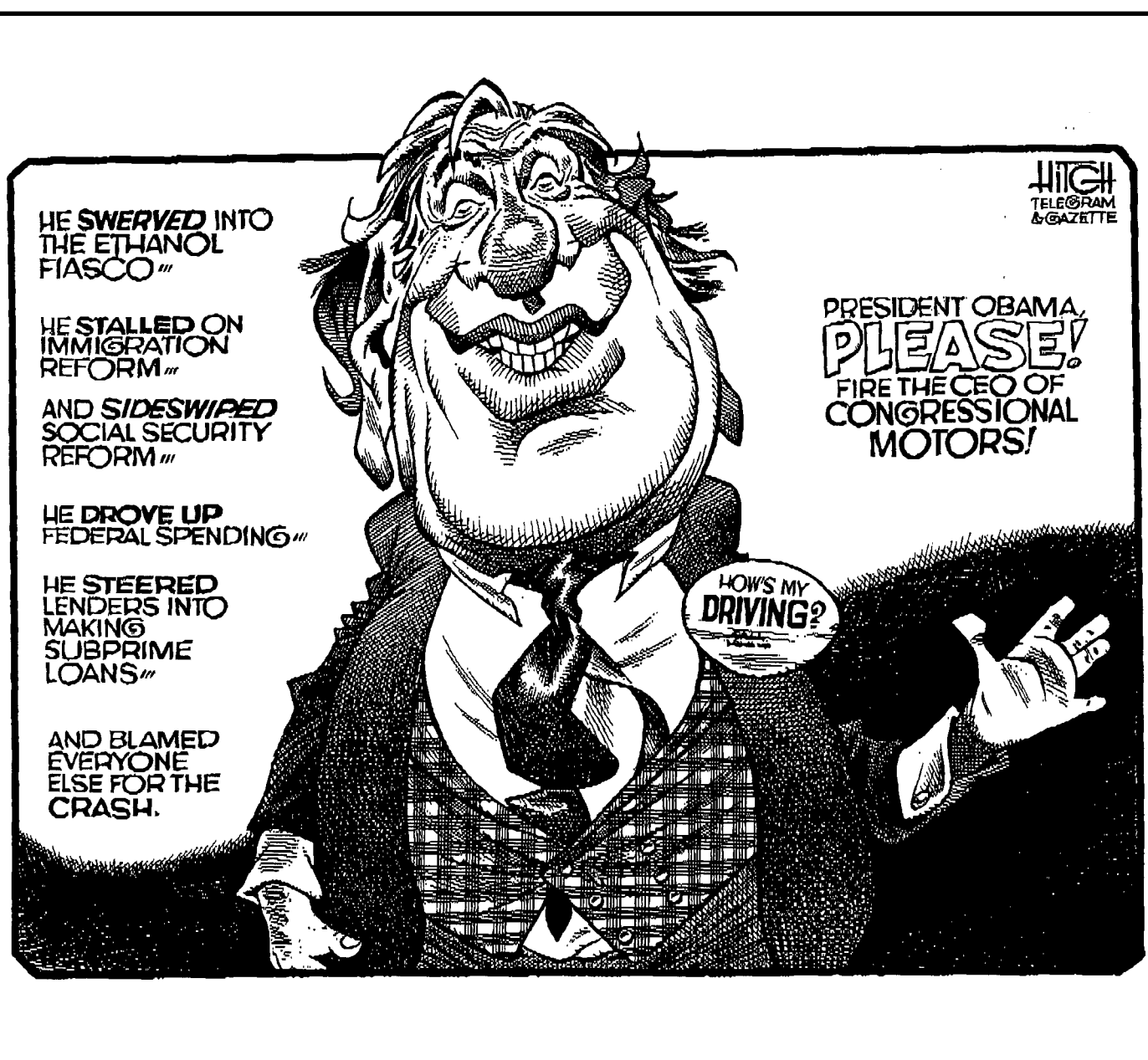
The president accomplished less than he had hoped. The Group of 20 leaders agreed to funnel more money into the International Monetary Fund for struggling nations, but France and Germany resisted U.S. urging to increase domestic government spending in order to stimulate the economy. Supportive of U.S. efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, France nonetheless offered to take a grand total of one Algerian prisoner off Obama's hands.

The Europeans praised Obama's new military-civilian strategy for Afghanistan. Nice words. But although Europe has been the target of several attacks by al-Qaida-linked groups, the allies still largely regard this as an American war. France ruled out sending combat troops, and Germany was noncommittal. NATO offered about 5,000 additional troops and \$100 million to train the Afghan army, but not the combat force Obama had sought.

In another clash of oratory and reality, Obama's pledge in Prague to stop the spread of nuclear weapons ran smack into a North Korean long-range missile launch. Friendly talks with Chinese and Russian leaders did not persuade them to join in a strong condemnation of North Korea's reckless provocation.

Words matter, and the respect that Obama engendered on this trip is key to reclaiming U.S. global leadership. Obama even exercised that leadership when he gently scolded Europeans for espousing what he called casual but insidious anti-Americanism. He urged them to acknowledge "the fundamental truth that America cannot confront the challenges of this century alone, but that Europe cannot confront them without America." Obama's challenge is to transform that partnership into concrete support from the Europeans, who must rise to the occasion and no longer blame President Bush's unilateralism for their unwillingness to help.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Life's Anchor and 12 Common Courtesies

Each generation strives to discover their unique self; often inspired by the music, writers and artists of their day. Yesterday's "rebel without a cause" has simply shifted across the sands of time into today's free-spirited youth.

In a few generations, what was once taught and considered common courtesies now seem to be lost as young people mimic the nihilistic actions and attitudes of pop-culture icons. Instilling a solid foundation of core values gives young people an anchor, while still allowing them to find their true self.

While our children were young and we were new parents, we wondered what we could and should do to best raise them in our home so they would become good people in the community. One of the things we did was to create a family mission statement that summarized our core beliefs, or at least those values that we hoped our children would someday use to guide their own lives. Before we wrote the mission statement, we made a list of all the worthwhile values we felt they should be taught. From the dozens listed on a piece of paper, we whittled them down to the principles that were absolutely essential, and from those we came up with three core values that we felt were imperative to instill so our children would grow to become responsible adults.

Like a three pronged-hook, these three values became the unifying anchor to help keep our children from drifting in the philosophical sea of life. We felt that if they were taught these three principles, they would have a solid foundation that would allow them to still discover their unique voice in the world.

The three values are our version of the three Rs, and they are: to be Respectful, to be Responsible, and make Right choices. We feel that if all people truly lived by these three values, there would be less fighting within families, fewer divorces among spouses, less conflicts and lawsuits in the community, and fewer wars would be fought in the world.

Eighteen years later, we can now see the impact that these three Rs have had on our children and without tooting our own horn too loudly, we are delighted to see the kind of adults our older children have become. We've recently decided to reassess our child-rearing methods with our next crop of children, to examine what worked best, and one of the things we will definitely re-emphasize is the three core Rs.

To clarify what each value stands for, we've included 12 Common Courtesies that we learned, but are becoming more uncommon

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



among people. Come up with your own examples or adapt these for your own situation to create an anchor for your family. Hopefully you'll be able to look back 18 years from now and observe the impact it has made on your children and in your lives.

Respectful

1. *Respect the rights and feelings of others.*

This includes their ideas, beliefs, property, and body. You don't have to agree with everyone, but recognize their rights as long as it does not disrespect or infringe on the rights of others.

2. *Try first to understand before trying to be understood.*

Too many people are so caught up in their own thoughts and problems that they fail to respect and understand what others are trying to say.

3. *Think before you speak, and consider how your words will impact others.*

Words, once released, are like a bag of feathers thrown into the wind. They are easy to say, but once let out of the bag, cannot all be taken back.

4. *Show more gratitude for the simple things, and recognize and praise the efforts of others.*

Respect is revealed by the way you treat others, and it creates a reciprocal effect as others show more respect toward you and your ideas.

Responsible

5. *If you see or know something needs to be done, then do it.*

See LIFE'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Land and culture

I write you today as I feel that our community is being led to believe that we will somehow lose our culture should Article 12 be done away with. I wasn’t born in the Northern Marianas. I never lived in Guam. I spent over 25 years of my life living in the mainland but I am every bit Chamorro as those of you who were born and raised here.

Being born and raised in Los Angeles, California, I was exposed to the many cultures that the world has to offer. The neighborhood I grew up in was a melting pot of culture with Japanese-Americans, Mexican Americans, African-Americans, Filipino-Americans and Korean-Americans. I thought, as a child, how neat it was to go to my many friends’ houses, meet their parents, witness their different lifestyles, and eat their different types of foods. I got to indulge in authentic Japanese ramen, Mexican refried beans with tortillas, African-American chitlans and collared greens, Filipino chicken adobo (although mom’s estufao was always better) and Korean bulgogi with kimchee. I was the luckiest kid being exposed to all these fabulous cultures and eating all this wonderful food.

Not only was I impressed by these many cultures, my friends also thought that my culture was intriguing and unique. My sister and I were the only Chamorros at school. When I was asked what my nationality was, no one knew of Chamorros and was very inquisitive about my culture, including the teachers. I loved having to explain that my dad is from the island of Saipan and my mom from Guam. I loved it so much that whenever we had social studies projects I always wanted to do them on the history of the Mariana Islands. My friends loved coming over to my house. They always said our language was peculiar and that they noticed a lot of Spanish words. We would have to explain why our last name was Santos and why our

numbers were in Spanish. The best part was feeding my friends as they loved our food. As we all know, we Chamorros love to eat but even more love to feed our friends and guest as this is a part of our culture. My classmates loved *kadun pika* (but not so spicy), *kadun katne* and most especially *chicken kelaguen*. Mom always had to make *kelaguen* and *titiyas* for my friends and she enjoyed doing it. And my friends loved to drown their food with *finadene*!

Even though I grew up in Los Angeles, my parents passed down the Chamorro culture and all its wonderfully unique customs and traditions. Mom and Dad may have primarily spoken English to my sister and me but grandma was always around and she didn’t speak any English. She always spoke Chamorro to me hence my ability to speak and understand Chamorro today, although my wife says my fluency is *apling* or broken. Growing up my parents instilled in us respect for others and respect for elders. We would go to baptismal parties or *finakpo novennas* in Long Beach and I had to *Amen* all of the elders. These events had all of the local food, local music and local culture. When I had my confirmation in the Catholic Church, my uncles brought a pig to our house and roasted it in the backyard over an open fire for the party. My friends were amazed when we actually roasted a pig in the backyard!

I am very fortunate because although I was not raised on the islands I am a very proud Chamorro. I have three beautiful children (and one on the way) with a wonderful Chamorro wife and we will raise our kids with the same love and respect our parents taught us. We will instill our culture in them because that is all we know.

I am even more fortunate because I inherited land from my father and I have enough NMD blood (I am only 50 percent since my mother was non-NMD) to actually own my inheritance. Ultimately, as a property owner on Saipan I do not want to be told how to dis-

pose of my property. My wife is 100 percent NMD but she chose to marry me even though I am only 50 percent. This union makes our children 75 percent. Realistically, it may be the case that our children will marry someone who is less than 100 percent (like my wife did or my father did) or even 0 percent NMD. It would be *most* unfortunate if my descendants eventually will not qualify to own their inherited land the way I did.

Furthermore, I find it sad that some individuals feel that I will somehow lose my culture if I sell my land to a non-NMD. Selling my property to non-NMD will not result in me and my family losing my culture. What it will do is allow me to sell the land—if I wish to do so—for its actual worth so I can afford my children the education they deserve and the prosperity we all strive for. Otherwise, I may be stuck with selling it to another NMD for a much lower price since the buyer knows there is a limited market of sellers and so he can dictate the price. We should be less concerned with non-NMDs taking over our islands as much as we should be concerned of NMDs taking advantage of the situation and leaving many landless at very little cost to them.

Many of you know me and now know a little about me. I will live on our beautiful island of Saipan until I live no more. I don’t come from a wealthy family and I have no special interest. Having options to do whatever I want with my personal possessions and property should not be dictated by others and deceitfully telling the masses that we will lose our culture if we sell our land to outsiders is cavalier. My culture did not come through my land; it came through the efforts of my family to keep our heritage alive through me.

Jay Santos
San Vicente, Saipan

Out of the mouths of babes

The recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting discussed land alienation, so I thought it appropriate to let the new generation weigh in with the great one.

A hundred Marianas High School U.S. history students discussed the issues surrounding our controversial land restrictions. The survey asked whether to eliminate Article 12, leave it unchanged, or modify our land laws. Students were asked to defend their vote and list what, if any modification they suggest. They were also asked to identify their NMD percentage and whether or not they are citizens that will be eligible to vote.

The results: 45 students voted to modify the law, 38 want it eliminated altogether, and 17 want to keep it the way it is now. The 17 defenders of Article 12 included eight students that are *not* NMD! Their rationale was surprisingly simple. One of the eight non-NMD defenders said, “If Article 12 is eliminated, home prices will rise, so if house prices go up, so will rents, and if our rents become \$2,000 a month like Guam and Hawaii, we will be forced to move back to

our country.” Of the nine NMD students wanting to keep Article 12, none said “this is our island” and one articulated her sentiment, “Ending Article 12 will change Saipan by making us more like Guam, and I like Saipan the way it is now.”

The 38 students voting to eliminate were composed of 33 future voters, 29 of whom are NMD. Every student described this as an economic necessity now and in the future. One 50 percent NMD student said, “Ending Article 12 would help many needy people, and if I can’t make a living here, I will move when I graduate.” All six students identifying themselves as 25 percent NMD voted with this group because, barring a modification, their children could not own land. One NMD student commented, “Article 12 is a tribal mentality and communal land is generally not productive. We are Americans and one of our concerns is the large amount of non-productive land here, which eliminating Article 12 may reduce.”

Of the 45 wanting to modify, none wanted it extended to 75 or

99 years, and their reasoning only included an expanded version of who could own land. Half suggested including all U.S. citizens and others suggested including all people born here. One 100 percent NMD student stated, “We have people living in the U.S. mainland voting here, which is ridiculous. For the good of the CNMI, the people born here that are full-time residents, even if they are Korean, should own land and make decisions, because they are now the true *taotao tano*.” Most U.S. citizens that are not NMD voted with this group.

The level of interest in and knowledge of Article 12 was remarkable. I was asked many legal questions about the constitutionality or whether the law could stand the test of time, and I told them I am of the opinion it will not, but as a layman, I will turn legal interpretations over to our mock trial team.

Ron Hodges
via e-mail

More questions

On two occasions, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka admitted to the media that public funds are being used in Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s lawsuit against the federal government. This is contradictory to what Fitial stated in his YouTube video statements. This does not include his pledge to the Legislature that he will not use public funds.

The central government’s contribution to Retirement Fund has not

been made, DPS operations is hampered, endangering the public, threats of furloughs are out, and all other public services are affected. So what funding is the governor using? Where is this funding for the lawsuit against the feds coming from? Did the governor gain any revenue when he silently commuted a Covenant constituent’s sentence? What happened to the promise of swift prosecution with the MPLA abolishment case? Millions are waiting to be collected in

this MPLA case. Has the Attorney General’s Office looked into the MPLA case or is AG waiting on the statute of limitations to run to prosecute the case?

This needs to be seriously looked into.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano

LIFE’S

From Page 10

Don’t wait to be told what to do, or leave it for someone else. If it takes another person or agency to get it done, then report it and follow-through until it is accomplished.

6. *If you borrow it, wear it or drop it, return it to its appropriate place.*

We’ve found this to be one of the major causes of frustration among people who live together as families or roommates. Clothes, toys, and other items that are dropped on the ground, quickly turn into a mess. Money and things borrowed and not returned create resentment and distrust.

7. *If you break it, fix it or replace it.*

This makes sense, but it’s amazing how many people don’t do it if they’ve been irresponsible with someone else’s things.

8. *Leave a place or item in better condition than when you arrived.*

This is one way to get people to welcome you back to their home, community or country. Can you imagine the difference it would make in public places if instead of leaving trash, everyone cleaned their messes and even picked up a few littered items before they left?

Right Choices

9. *Consider the consequences of your actions in the next 7 minutes, 7 days, and over the next 7 years.*

Consider what impact your choices will make immediately, and in the near and far future. Robbing someone’s money, time, property, or virtue for immediate gratification can leave a permanent scar, mar your reputation, or make you less desirable to be around.

10. *Consider the feelings of others in your thoughts, words, and deeds, but always be true to yourself and your purpose.*

It’s important to live in harmony with others, but there are times when your choices may contradict with the masses because you are being true to your inner self, a higher cause, or a higher power.

11. *Speak the truth, live with honor, and keep your reputation spotless.*

Your integrity is one of the most valuable assets you can cultivate throughout your entire life, and one of the few things you can take with you after this life. People who have left legacies and are remembered well by others are those who lived with honor.






12. *Treat other people how they want to be treated.*

How you want to be treated may be different from the way others want to be treated. This is especially true with men and women who live under the same roof and with people from different cultures. You should try to understand the unique needs of others, and how they want you to treat them. The world would become a much better place if we only lived by this one “common” courtesy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

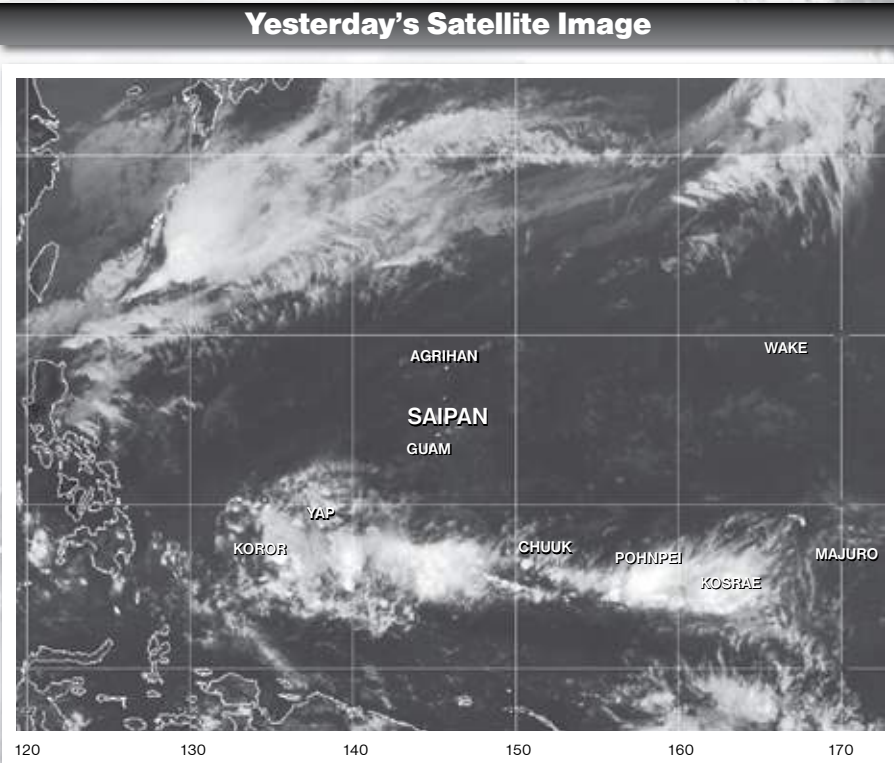
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 5 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲59 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼51
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲76 ▼71
London	Showers	▲57 ▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼54
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼69
New York	Cloudy	▲58 ▼42
Osaka	Sunny	▲72 ▼50
Paris	Showers	▲60 ▼51
Pusan	Sunny	▲74 ▼53
Rome	Showers	▲68 ▼53
Salem	Rain	▲55 ▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲59 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲76 ▼47
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼54
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲61 ▼44

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:22 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:09 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:52 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:04 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends west-southwest from 25N153E to 22N130E. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are occurring along and up to 300 miles north of the front. Trade wind convergence is producing a nearly continuous line of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Micronesia from Palau to Kosrae from 4N to 9N between 134E and 166E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	Today	6:11 PM	5:25 AM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Friday	7:04 PM	6:06 AM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Saturday	7:59 PM	6:47 AM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	8:53 PM	7:32 AM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	9:48 PM	8:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota				
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7	
Saipan-Guam				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota	
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita				
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily	
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Guam-Narita				
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka				
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6	
Guam-Osaka				
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya				
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily	
Guam-Nagoya				
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Incheon				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka	
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	
Saipan-Busan				
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7	
Saipan-Shanghai				
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6	
Rota-Guam				
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7	
Guam-Palau				
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7	
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5	
Palau-Manila				
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5	
Guam-Manila				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7	
Nagoya-Manila				
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily	
Incheon-Hongkong				
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily	
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily	
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7	
Narita-Manila				
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6	
Guam-Saipan				
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7	
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota	
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily	
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Narita-Saipan				
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily	
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Narita-Guam				
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
Osaka-Saipan				
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
Osaka-Guam				
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily	
Nagoya-Guam				
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily	
Incheon-Saipan				
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Busan-Saipan				
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7	
Shanghai-Saipan				
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5	
Guam-Rota				
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6	
Palau-Guam				
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2	
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6	
Manila-Palau				
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5	
Manila-Guam				
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror	
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily	
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Manila-Nagoya				
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily	
Hongkong-Incheon				
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily	
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6	
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily	
Manila-Narita				
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TOYS
20% - 50%
OFF
(SELECTED ONLY)

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

Easter Sale Special

HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS
10% - 25%
OFF
(SELECTED ONLY)

APRIL 9 TO 12, 2009 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Lag Quarter

22 LBS. **\$15⁹⁹**
33 LBS. **\$19⁹⁹**

Whole Chicken

LIMIT 1 CASE
\$33⁹⁹

Young Spare Ribs

10 LBS.
\$13⁹⁹

Pork Spareribs

BBQ Adobo Cut
20 LBS.
\$14⁹⁹

Beef Spare Ribs

20 LBS.
\$21⁹⁹

Pork Riblets

10 LBS.
\$11⁹⁹

Mackerel

PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. **\$20⁹⁹**
PIKE 22.07 LBS. **\$23⁹⁹**

Chorizos

4 lbs. 64 oz.
\$24⁹⁹

Korean Water

24/Case
\$4⁹⁹ /CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice

50 LBS. (LIMIT 1 SACK)
\$24⁹⁹

Diamond G Calrose

Rice 50 LBS.
\$32⁹⁹

Ichiban

Limit 1 CASE
\$7⁹⁹

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham

10 lbs.
\$16⁹⁹

Miller Sausage

5 lbs.
\$14⁹⁵

Chamorro Sausage

Reg/Hot 1 lb.
\$4⁴⁹

Bar-S Bacon

1 lb.
\$2⁴⁹

Spam 12 oz.

LESS SALT & REGULAR ONLY
LIMIT 12
\$1⁹⁹
\$2²⁵ ALL OTHER FLAVORS

Black Label Luncheon

Meat 12 oz.
\$1³⁹

Libby's Vienna Sausage

5 oz.
69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines

3.75 oz.
89¢

Ox & Palm Corned Beef

11.5 oz. LIMIT 6
\$2²⁹

Bar-S Hotdog

1 lb.
\$1⁰⁹

West Bay Crabmeat

Imitation 1 lb.
\$1⁹⁹

Ground Beef

5 LBS. **\$9⁹⁹**
10 LBS. **\$16⁹⁹**

Bar-S Ham

10 lbs.
\$17⁹⁹

Hormel Mary Kitchen

Corned Beef Hash 15 oz.
\$1⁹⁹

Hormel Chili

No Beans 15 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

DM Beef Stew

15 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Master A1 Tuna

7 oz. Limit 6
99¢

3 Diamond Tuna

\$1⁰⁹

Mackarel Family Bag

\$5⁹⁹

Peeled Shrimp

SC Brand 1 lb.
\$2⁹⁹

Seafood Mix Log

Feng Brand 1 lb.
\$2⁵⁹

Blue Crab Section

Per Box
\$8⁹⁵

Sun Flower Mackerel

15 oz.
\$1⁵⁹

Campbells Chicken

Noodle Soup 10.7 oz.
99¢

Cream of Mushroom

10 3/4 oz.
99¢

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn

89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk

12 oz.
\$1¹⁹

Vega Shrimp

1 lb.
\$4⁹⁹

Green Mussels

2 lbs.
\$4⁹⁹

Chicken Wings

5.5 lbs.
\$9⁹⁹ /PACK

Milk Fish

\$1⁴⁹

Crisco All Vegetable Shortening

3 lbs.
\$4⁹⁹

Dragon Veg. Oil

1 Gal.
\$7⁴⁹

Vegetable Oil

5 Gal. LIMIT 1
\$24⁹⁹

Golden State Vinegar

1 Gal.
\$2⁹⁹

Crisco Pure Corn

64 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Tilapia

\$9⁹⁹

U.S. Extra Large Eggs

Dozen
\$1⁹⁹

Onion

79¢ /LB

Garlic

89¢ /BUNDLES

Vlasic Dill Pickles

(Spears) 1 Gal.
\$5⁹⁹

Kikkoman

1.6 L.
\$3⁷⁹

Lemon Powder

5.29 oz.
\$4⁹⁹

Gold Medal Flour

5 lbs. Limit 4 pcs.
\$2⁹⁹

Maseca

4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc.
\$4⁹⁹

Korean Butane Gas

LIMIT 1 Case
\$19⁹⁹ /CASE

Foam Cups

51 cts.
\$1⁹⁹

Bounty Basic

8 Rolls
\$8⁹⁹

Bounty 15 Rolls

\$19⁹⁹

Foam Plates

125 ct.
\$6⁹⁹

Spoon & Fork

No Brand Name 100 cts.
\$1²⁹

Horse Shampoo

1 qt.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Bottled White Candle

12 pcs/case
\$13⁹⁹ /CASE

Drypers

(All Size) Mega Pack
\$14⁹⁹

Luvs Big Pack

(All Size)
\$19⁹⁹

Coco Mackerel

15 oz.
\$1²⁹

Sugar

2 kg.
\$1⁴⁹

Morton Iodized Salt

26 oz.
59¢

Folgers Classic Roast

39 oz.
\$9⁹⁹

Coffee-Mate Creamer

50 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Moist Deluxe Except Yellow Classic Cake

18.25 oz.
2 FOR \$3⁰⁰

Kraft Cool Whip

8 oz. **\$1⁹⁹**
16 oz. **\$3⁵⁰**

Albers Yellow Corn Meal

1 lb.
\$1⁹⁹

Argo Corn Starch

\$1⁰⁹

Nissin Cup Noodles

12 pcs.
\$5⁹⁵

Cottonelle Single

24 rolls Tissue
\$8⁹⁹

Diamond Foil

200 Sq. Ft.
\$5⁹⁹

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	\$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
FLANK STEAK	\$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
PORK ADOBO	\$10.95	BEEF STEW	\$12.95
PORK CHOP	\$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	\$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	\$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	\$4.99	PORK BUTT	\$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	\$13.99		

Nestea Iced Tea

36 qts.
\$7⁹⁹

Tang

22 qts.
\$5⁹⁹

Kool-Aid

32 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only

\$5⁹⁹

Whole Chicken

Can 50 oz.
\$5⁹⁹

Real Fresh Milk

(Regular only)
\$14⁹⁹ /CASE

Chamorro Punch

1 Gal.
\$8⁹⁹

Enfamil

25.7
\$26⁹⁹

Coke Regular

24/Case Warm Only
\$12⁹⁹

Shasta Drinks

112oz All Flavor (warm only)
\$12⁹⁹

Pepsi Regular

Warm Only
\$16⁹⁹ /CASE

Budweiser/Budlight

24/Case Warm Only
\$25⁹⁹

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	\$4.99
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	\$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	\$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	\$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	\$6.99
SWAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR \$3.00
PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS)	\$3.99

Business

Oil falls to near \$48, following stocks down

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near \$48 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as crude markets followed equities down on waning optimism the U.S. economy will soon recover from a severe recession.

Benchmark crude for May delivery fell \$1.04 to \$48.11 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.90 on Tuesday to settle at \$49.15.

Oil and stock markets have dropped this week, winding back March's big rally, as investors eye what could be a grim first quarter U.S. corporate earnings season.

Oil traders often look to stocks

as a measure of investor sentiment about the overall economy. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.3 percent Tuesday.

Alcoa Inc., the world's third-largest aluminum maker, reported a quarterly loss of \$497 million as revenue dropped 44 percent. Alcoa was the first blue chip company to report earnings for the quarter and is considered an indicator of upcoming results from other firms.

"The rally we saw in oil and equities was based on optimism that all the fiscal stimulus will be effective in sparking demand down the track," said Toby Hassall, an analyst with Commodity Warrants Australia in Sydney.

"But we haven't seen much evidence of that yet."

Investors will be looking to the Energy Information Administration's weekly inventory report on Wednesday for a gauge of U.S. crude demand. The International Energy Agency will follow with its monthly global oil demand survey and outlook on Friday.

Last week, the EIA report showed that crude inventories rose by 2.8 million barrels to 359.4 million barrels, 15.5 percent above year-ago levels.

"With inventories as high as they are, any rally in crude is unlikely to be sustained," Hassall said. "We've got a massive inventory overhang."

DOT grants tentative approval for Continental to join Star Alliance

The U.S. Department of Transportation yesterday tentatively approved the application for Continental Airlines (NYSE: CAL) to join the existing antitrust immunized alliance between United Airlines and eight other Star Alliance member carriers, and for Continental to enter into an integrated worldwide alliance.

"Continental's entrance into Star Alliance will provide substantial benefits for consumers worldwide while preserving domestic competition and jobs," said Larry Kellner, Continental's chairman and CEO. "In addition, a timely final approval will allow Continental to provide a seamless transition for its customers from the SkyTeam alliance to Star Alliance this fall."

The tentative DOT decision not only benefits consumers, but also ensures global competition with other antitrust immunized alliances and encourages the retention and growth of open skies between the U.S.

and other nations.

Continental expresses its appreciation to the numerous community and civic parties whose enthusiastic support has been critical to the airline's efforts to secure this tentative approval. Continental thanks its 42,000 employees, its millions of customers and the travel, congressional, state and local government and business partners who urged timely approval of the application.

Continental also expressed its appreciation for the efforts of DOT Secretary Ray LaHood and his staff who issued the tentative approval of this application despite the many pressing other issues facing the DOT and the Administration.

In addition to Continental and United, the eight Star Alliance members receiving tentative DOT approval for antitrust immunity are Air Canada, Austrian, bmi, Lufthansa, LOT Polish Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), SWISS and TAP Air Portugal. (PR)

Diet Coke 'Fights for a Cure'

UPPER TUMON, Guam—The Coca-Cola Beverage Company of Guam joins in on the fight against cancer.

CCBCG announced yesterday the launch of the Diet Coke "Here's to Fighting for a Cure" campaign in a continuing effort to help in the fight against cancer and to support the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event.

Fundraising efforts will be done through the sales of Diet Coke, Diet Coke Plus and/or Caffeine Free Diet Coke 12-can packs. From now until the end of May 2009, CCBCG will donate 5 cents for every 12-can pack purchased at participating grocery outlets.

"Cancer has impacted the lives of everyone—this is just

one way our business can unite in the fight for a cure," said Ernest Mak, Director of Operations for Coca Cola Beverage Co. Guam. "Historically, our company has rallied behind the support for cancer fundraising and we hope through our efforts and the efforts of other island businesses and community at large, that the American Cancer Society Guam Chapter can continue to provide help and hope to thousands."

For more information on the Diet Coke Promotion, call Sharleen Marchesseault at 649-0883 or email agency2@glimpsesofguam.com. For more information on the Guam Chapter of the American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org/guamgu. (PR)



JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Representatives from Joeten Group and Horizon Lines pose for a group shot after the latter presented a plaque congratulating Joeten Enterprises Inc. on its 60th Anniversary at Minami Restaurant, Palm's Resort Saipan. In the photo are the following, from bottom left, Horizon Lines senior vice president Mar Labrador, Joeten Enterprises president Annie Sablan, Joeten Enterprises board member Norman Tenorio, Horizon Lines Guam & Micronesia general manager Hugh Healey, and Joeten Enterprises/CMS executive vice president Dennis Yoshimoto. Top from left, Horizon Lines Guam sales manager Edward Cruz, Horizon Lines Saipan manager Joven Cruz, Price Costco store manager James Sablan, Price Costco merchandise manager Jason Sablan, JC Tenorio Enterprises buyer/manager J.J. Tenorio, Joeten Enterprises Special Projects manager Bo Palacios, Ace Hardware general manager Ron Woolsey, and Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Asia stocks track US lower amid earnings fears

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets fell sharply Wednesday, with Hong Kong's index tumbling 4 percent, as fears over company profits amid the global recession prompted investors to lock in gains from a recent rally.

Investors unloaded shares across most industries, from banks to energy firms and airlines, after a second day of weakness on Wall Street that stirred talk of an end to the huge monthlong advance in global equities since March.

Markets were on edge as U.S. firms began releasing their first-quarter results, with giant aluminum maker Alcoa reporting

a wider-than-expected loss as prices for the lightweight metal plunged amid softening demand. It was a bleak start to the earnings season - and added to anxiety that the recession's toll on major companies could be worse than many already fear.

There were also renewed worries about the health of banks. Markets were focused on reports the International Monetary Fund may sharply increase its estimate of toxic asset losses at financial institutions around the world. A relatively slow start to U.S. measures to soak up certain securities and spur more lending also weighed on investors.

Most investors have been

girding for a downward move.

"The last four weeks were detached from fundamentals and driven by a swing in sentiment," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist for SJS Markets in Hong Kong. "Sentiment is negative and shaky right now."

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average fell 241.54 points, or 2.7 percent, to 8,591.31, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng plummeted 592.78 points, or 4 percent, to 14,336.19.

Elsewhere, South Korea's Kospi lost 2.5 percent to 1,267.87. Stock measures in Shanghai, Australia, Taiwan and Singapore all lost about 2 percent.

SEC is floating options to limit short sales

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are floating several options for reining in the practice of short-selling stocks, as investors, corporations and lawmakers clamor for restrictions on moves they say gutted vulnerable companies and worsened the market's downward spiral.

Members of the Securities and Exchange Commission are meeting Wednesday to vote on

new rules restricting short-selling, in which traders try to profit from a stock's decline by selling borrowed shares. Several proposals are expected to be put forward for public comment.

The agency could settle on one plan and formally approve it sometime after the comment period.

It marks the second time in less than a week that financial relief measures pressed

by Congress were taken up by overseers. Last Thursday, the independent Financial Accounting Standards Board gave companies more leeway in valuing assets and reporting losses.

Both sets of changes would especially benefit banks and other financial institutions, whose balance sheets have been battered in the financial crisis and whose stocks have often been targeted by short sellers.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 3,567.500 Down 81.000 (-2.22%)	JAKARTA 1,465.026 Down 25.831 (-1.73%)
HONG KONG 14,331.56 Down 597.41 (-4.00%)	K. LUMPUR 919.84 Down 3.93 (-0.43%)
TOKYO 8,595.01 Down 237.84 (-2.69%)	MANILA 2,072.81 Up 21.12 (+1.03%)
SEOUL 1,262.07 Down 38.03 (-2.93%)	SINGAPORE 1,759.52 Down 42.87 (-2.38%)
BANGKOK 362.96 Down 1.33 (-0.37%)	

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 7,789.56 -186.29
NASDAQ 1,561.61 -45.10
S&P 815.55 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.419
British Pound	0.6816
Canadian Dollar	1.2431
Chinese Renmbi	6.8371
Euro	0.7594
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7995
Indian Rupee	50.525
Indonesian Rupiah	11390
Japanese Yen	99.66
Malaysian Ringgit	3.635
New Zealand Dollar	1.7525
Philippine Peso	48.12
Singapore Dollar	1.5191
South Korean Won	1355.65
Swiss Franc	1.1494
Taiwan Dollar	33.877
Thailand Baht	35.545

In U.S. dollar terms
Source: Associated Press

Nation

Official: Ala. man kills wife, 3 others, self

PRICEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—A man facing a divorce trial shot and killed his estranged wife, their teenage daughter and two other relatives in rural north Alabama before returning to his home in a nearby town and killing himself, authorities said Tuesday.

Kevin Garner's body was found Tuesday afternoon near his Priceville home, which burned to the ground overnight. His divorce trial was to start Wednesday.

Garner apparently shot himself in the chest, said Travis Clemmons, chief investigator for the sheriff's office in Lauderdale County, where the four bodies were found earlier in the day in a home in Green Hill, a small community near the Tennessee line.

The victims were identified as Garner's estranged wife, Tammy, 40; their 16-year-old daughter, Chelsie; Garner's sister, Karen Beaty of Illinois; and Beaty's 11-year-old son, whose name was not released.

Investigators said the four were shot, apparently with a handgun, around midnight Monday. They did not know if Kevin Garner was licensed to carry a firearm.

It was one of eight mass shootings around the country—and the third in Alabama—in the last month that have left grief-stricken communities in shock.

Clemmons said a neighbor visiting the Green Hill house Tuesday morning saw a body through the door and called authorities.

Court officials said the Garners were in court Monday in advance of the trial



The remains of Kevin and Tammy Garner's home and a burnt vehicle are seen in Priceville, Ala. on Tuesday April 7, 2009. Authorities say a man suspected of shooting and killing his estranged wife and three others in rural north Alabama apparently took his own life as well.

and nothing seemed unusual.

"I just can't understand it," said Clemmons, "and with a 16-year-old and an 11-year-old kid, there's nothing rational about it."

In the divorce file, Tammy Garner sought custody of their daughter and alleged that her husband "has been both physically and emotionally abusive."

Kevin Garner accused her of adultery and of taking \$38,000 out of their joint bank account when they separated May 27.

Michael Corley, chief deputy in Morgan County, where Garner's body

was found, said Beaty and her son might have been on the witness list for the divorce case. He said investigators believe Garner was "unhappy" with proceedings and "after court adjourned it appears he set some of his plans in motion."

He said it appears the divorce was filed about a year ago but was just now coming up on the court docket.

"Now that we know the final end of it all it's just going back and putting the pieces together," Corley said. "We feel like this was solely a homicide, that he killed them, then went to the

home. He used some type of accelerant that caused the home to burn very, very quickly, then walked about 200 yards back into a wooded area behind the house and took his life."

Jerry Knight, an attorney who represented Kevin Garner in the divorce case, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that Garner "had a terrific work ethic and value system. I was terribly shocked and saddened by this unexpected tragedy."

Kevin Garner had worked at a Decatur chemical plant and Tammy Garner at a Huntsville department store.

Flight student charged with piloting plane into US

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Suicide by fighter jet was the goal of a flight student who stole a plane in Canada, entered U.S. airspace and flew an erratic path over the Midwest with the military on his tail before he landed safely on a rural Missouri road, federal authorities said Tuesday.

Adam Dylan Leon, who was running out of fuel when he landed the plane Monday night in Ellsinore, Mo., was charged Tuesday with transportation of stolen property and illegal entry. The six-hour flight prompted a brief evacuation of the Wisconsin Capitol and warnings to commercial aircraft over Chicago and other cities, but terrorism is not believed to be a motive.

According to the federal complaint, Leon told the FBI that he flew the plane into the U.S. expecting to be shot down by military aircraft. The complaint said Leon also told the FBI he "has not felt like himself lately" and he recently was being treated by a psychiatrist.

Leon was jailed in St. Louis and does not yet have an attorney. A federal detention hearing is set for Friday.

A background check of Leon, 31, of Thunder Bay, Ontario, showed no connection to terrorism, FBI agent John Gillies said.

Carl Rusnok, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Leon was born in Turkey with the name Yavuz Berke, moved to Canada and became a naturalized citizen last year.

Suleman: Wages, inheritance paid for in vitro

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP)—Octuplets mother Nadya Suleman says she used money from an inheritance and overtime wages from her job as a psychiatric technician to pay for her early fertilization procedures. Suleman told celebrity magazine Life & Style Weekly she spent at least \$24,000 on the in vitro fertilization procedures that led to her first four babies.

She said she saved money for the procedures that cost about \$6,000 each by working 16-hour days as a psychiatric technician.

When her aunt died, Suleman said she used an undisclosed portion of her \$30,000 inheritance to conceive twins. Leftover eggs from that in vitro pregnancy were frozen until she used them to give birth to the octuplets.

Suleman did not give financial de-

tails about the octuplets, though in vitro fertilization using frozen eggs is generally cheaper.

"Maybe it was selfish; I'm the first to admit that. Maybe putting in all the eggs was a mistake, but all I've ever wanted is a huge family," said Suleman, according to a transcript of the interview provided by the magazine.

After an on-the-job injury, Suleman collected more than \$165,000 in state disability payments.

Suleman, 33, an unemployed single mother of 14 children, has been trailed by the paparazzi and endured much public scorn in the weeks since the octuplets were born prematurely on Jan. 26.

In the interview, Suleman vowed to protect the identity of the sperm donor

but said she would like him to be part of the children's lives. She approached the donor several years ago to help her have children and "year after year, he kept helping me."

She would not say whether they were lovers in the past but acknowledged the donor was upset when he found out she wanted more children after already having six.

"He was upset when I did it again. He said the same thing everyone else did: 'You have six beautiful children—why do you want more?'" she recalled.

The issue containing the eight-page spread hits newsstands in New York and Los Angeles on Wednesday and nationally on Friday. The interview was conducted Saturday at Suleman's new home in La Habra.

"I think those programs were absolutely essential to the success we enjoyed of being able to collect the intelligence that let us defeat all further attempts to launch attacks against the United States since 9/11," Cheney said.

"I think that's a great success story. It was done legally. It was done in accordance with our constitutional practices and principles," he said. "President Obama campaigned against it all across the country. And now he is making some choices that, in my mind, will, in fact, raise the risk to the American people of another attack," Cheney said.

parts of the world," Biden said. "And so we've been about the business of repairing and strengthening those. I guarantee you we are safer today, our interests are more secure today than they were any time during the eight years" of the Bush administration.

Since becoming president, Obama has ordered the closing of the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and banned certain interrogation methods for suspected terrorists.

Cheney last month said the Bush administration programs involving suspected terrorists were critically important and overturning them had made the country less safe.

Biden says Cheney 'dead wrong' on security policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday his predecessor, Dick Cheney, is "dead wrong" when he says President Barack Obama's national security policies are making the United States less safe. Biden said the exact opposite is true and added that President George W. Bush's vice president was part of a dysfunctional decision-making system.

"I don't think he is out of line, but he is dead wrong. ... The last administration left us in a weaker posture than we've been any time since World War II: less regarded in the world, stretched more thinly than we ever have been in the past, two wars under way, virtually no respect in entire

ACROSS THE NATION

Police probing Calif. child death to search church

TRACY, Calif. (AP)—Police investigating the death of an 8-year-old girl whose body was found in a suitcase dumped in a pond cordoned off a church they planned to search Tuesday, a day after questioning its pastor and taking a computer and other items from his home. Pastor Lane Lawless was stopped by a swarm of reporters Tuesday as he drove by Clover Road Baptist Church with his wife, Connie. He said he was questioned by police for three hours Monday night. Connie Lawless said they were being interviewed because they live down the street from the victim, Sandra Cantu, and their great granddaughter played with her. With reporters pushing up against their sedan, Connie Lawless said the couple was fully cooperating with police. She said investigators took phones and a computer, among other items, from their home.

Vermont legalizes gay marriage with veto override

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Vermont, the state that invented civil unions, on Tuesday became a pioneer once again as the first state to legalize gay marriage through a legislature's vote. The House barely achieved the votes necessary to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a bill that will allow gays and lesbians to marry beginning September 1. Four states now have same-sex marriage laws and other states soon could follow suit. Bills to allow same-sex marriage are currently before lawmakers in New Hampshire, Maine, New York and New Jersey. The three other states that currently allow same-sex marriage—Connecticut, Massachusetts and Iowa—each moved to do so through the courts, not legislatures. "For a popularly elected legislature to make this decision is a much more democratic process" because lawmakers have to answer to the voters every other November, said Eric Davis, a retired Middlebury College political science professor.

Media allowed to cover another casualty returning

DOVER, Del. (AP)—On a cold April night, under a bright moon, the body of Army Specialist Israel Candelaria Mejias arrived at Dover Air Force Base in a flag-draped aluminum case. Mejias, of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, was killed by an improvised explosive device Sunday while serving in Iraq. His return Tuesday marked the second time this week members of the media were allowed to witness a U.S. combat casualty being brought back from overseas, ending the Pentagon's 18-year ban on such coverage. Mejias' body arrived in Delaware shortly before 8:30 p.m. aboard a C-17 military cargo jet from Ramstein, Germany.

Asia

NKorea shows footage of healthy leader Kim Jong Il

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—State-run television gave North Koreans their first glimpse Tuesday of the country's "auspicious" rocket launch—and of an apparently healthy leader Kim Jong Il mingling with farmers and watching bears at the zoo.

What the TV didn't show was just as notable: footage of the "Dear Leader" during the 3 1/2 months after he is believed to have suffered a stroke that sparked fears of a succession crisis in the poor, nuclear-

armed nation.

Kim, 67, is expected to make a triumphant public return when he presides over the first session of the country's new parliament Thursday for re-election as chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission.

North Korea claims Sunday's rocket launch shot a satellite into space, where it allegedly is playing melodious odes to Kim and his late father, who founded the reclusive communist country.

The U.S. and South Korea,

however, say the rocket's second and third stages fell into the Pacific Ocean with the payload still attached. They say the launch was a cover for testing long-range missile technology.

Exclusive footage obtained Tuesday by APTN in Pyongyang showed a white rocket with "Chosun," the name North Koreans use for their country, emblazoned on the side in red. The 20-second clip shows the rocket blasting off, then blazing eastward across the sky.

Rare megamouth shark caught, eaten in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fishermen in the Philippines accidentally caught and later ate a megamouth shark, one of the rarest fishes in the world with only 40 others recorded to have been encountered, the World Wildlife Fund said Tuesday. The 1,100-pound, 13-foot megamouth died while struggling in the fishermen's net on March 30 off Burias island in the central Philippines. It was taken to nearby Donsol in Sorsogon province, where it was butchered and eaten, said Gregg Yan, spokesman for WWF-Philippines.

Yan said a WWF Donsol Project Manager Elson Aca took pictures of the megamouth and tried to dissuade the fishermen from eating it. Shark meat is the main ingredient in a local delicacy.

The first megamouth was discovered in Hawaii in 1976,



This photo released by the World Wildlife Fund shows a dead rare megamouth shark at the shores of Donsol town, Sorsogon province, central Philippines on Monday, March 30, 2009.

prompting scientists to create an entirely new family and genus of sharks. The megamouths are docile filter-feeders with wide,

blubbery mouths. Yan said the Burias megamouth's stomach revealed it was feeding on shrimp larvae.

Yan said the fish was tagged "Megamouth 41"—the 41st megamouth recorded in the world—by the Florida Museum of Natural History. It was the eighth reported encountered in Philippine seas.

He said the megamouth was caught in 660-foot deep waters, which are also frequented by the endangered whale shark, the world's largest fish and also a filter-feeder in the Donsol area, about 185 miles southeast of Manila.

Aca said the presence of two of the world's three filter-feeding sharks along with manta rays and dolphins indicates that the region's marine ecosystem was still relatively healthy and should continue to be protected.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai leader vows to prevent civil war

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Protesters smashed a window of the prime minister's car Tuesday on the eve of a rally that could pose the biggest challenge yet to his four-month-old administration, but the Thai leader vowed to prevent any people's revolution. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva was unharmed in the attack ahead of Wednesday's rally by anti-government activists hoping to draw tens of thousands of supporters in Bangkok—the biggest demonstration since rival activists shut down the city's airports in November. Abhisit called on all parties to keep the demonstration peaceful, and said his government would take any necessary measures to ensure they do so. "There are some groups which want violence so it's everyone's job to make sure it does not happen," Abhisit said. "I have tried to tell those who want to express themselves to rally peacefully."

Afghan spokesman: Marital law is under review

KABUL (AP)—A new law that critics say legalizes marital rape will face a thorough review, the president's spokesman said Tuesday, and a State Department spokesman said the U.S. was glad to hear it. The law, quietly passed and signed last month, has stirred international outcry over women's rights. The law says a husband can have sex with his wife every four days unless she is ill, and

it regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave the house by herself. The law would apply only to the country's Shiite population, between 10 percent and 20 percent of Afghanistan's 30 million people. "Women have had an unfortunate and a very sad history in Afghanistan," State Department spokesman Robert Wood told reporters in Washington. "This type of a law shouldn't have been enacted without regard to changing some of these provisions that send a very negative signal to the international community about where Afghanistan is going."

Journalist hurls shoe at Indian minister

NEW DELHI (AP)—An angry Sikh journalist threw a shoe at India's top security official after a confrontational exchange during a news conference over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that left thousands dead. The shoe missed Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, who continued taking questions Tuesday as officials escorted the journalist away. The journalist, Jarnail Singh, was taken into police custody, but released after questioning, said police spokesman Rajan Bhagat. Singh is a veteran reporter with one of India's largest newspapers, the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagran*. Before throwing the shoe, Singh asked Chidambaram several questions about the Central Bureau of Investigation's findings last week that cleared a senior Congress party leader, Jagdish Tytler, of involvement in the bloody riots that left 3,000 dead.

World

Strong aftershocks rock Italy

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—Strong aftershocks Tuesday sent a fresh wave of fear across earthquake-shattered central Italy, and rescue crews pulled a young woman alive from a collapsed building about 42 hours after the main quake struck the mountainous region. Eleonora Calesini, a 20-year-old student, was found alive in the ruins of the five-story building in central L'Aquila, said her grandfather, Renato Calesini, in the seaside town of Mondaini.

"She's safe!" he told The Associated Press, adding that

her father had gone to devastated city in the snowcapped Apennine mountains to try to locate the student, who wears a hearing aid. She reportedly had an arm injury but was in good condition otherwise.

The death toll from Italy's worst earthquake in three decades climbed to 235, with 15 still missing, civil protection officials said. The dead included four students trapped in the rubble of a dormitory of the University of L'Aquila, the ANSA news agency reported.

Rescue crews gave up gingerly removing debris by

hand and brought in huge pincers that pulled off parts of the dorm roof, balconies and walls, showering debris down.

"Unless there is a miracle, I've been told (by rescuers) that they probably are dead," university rector Ferdinando Di Orio said.

A strong aftershock at 7:47 p.m. rained debris on screaming residents and rescue crews, who ran from the site.

"I want to go home! I want to go home!" screamed a woman identified only as Patrizia after chunks of facade rained down on them from a badly cracked building.

Obama in Baghdad, tells troops Iraq must take over

BAGHDAD (AP)—Flying unannounced into a still-dangerous war zone, President Barack Obama told U.S. troops and Iraqi officials alike Tuesday it is time to phase out America's combat role in a conflict he opposed as a candidate and has vowed to end as commander in chief.

With violence diminished but hardly disappearing—a car

bomb killed eight Iraqis just hours before Obama's arrival—the president met with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and emphasized that "we strongly support" steps to unite political factions, including integrating minority Sunnis into the government and security forces.

Iraqis "need to take responsibility for their own country,"

Obama told hundreds of cheering soldiers gathered in an ornate, marble palace near Saddam Hussein's former seat of power.

"You have given Iraq the opportunity to stand on its own as a democratic country. That is an extraordinary achievement," he told some 600 troops, saluting their efforts during six years of American fighting and losses.

Somali pirates back in action, seize 5 ships

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—For the first three months of 2009, Somalia's notorious pirates faded from the headlines as a massive international naval force moved in, and many observers thought the pirates were running scared.

Not so fast: the pirates have hijacked at least five vessels since Saturday.

Using a new strategy, they

are operating further away from warships patrolling the Gulf of Aden. And they no longer have to contend with the choppy waters that always plague the seas off Somalia in the early part of the year.

That has allowed the sea bandits to come back in force—seizing five vessels over a 72-hour period.

"The weather has improved

west of Seychelles and they've realized they have much more freedom of action down to the south because the coalition are not there in great numbers," said Graeme Gibbon Brooks, managing director of the British company Dryad Maritime Intelligence Service Ltd.

"We're going to end up probably playing a cat-and-mouse game in the next six months."

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil court orders jail, retrial in US nun death

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A Brazilian court on Tuesday ordered the arrest and retrial of an Amazon rancher acquitted of orchestrating the murder of American nun and rain forest activist Dorothy Stang. Para state's top court reversed last year's not-guilty verdict for Vitalmiro Moura on a technicality, ruling that a video used by the defense was not admissible as evidence, the state prosecutor said. "We're elated and we are convinced we will get a guilty verdict in the new trial," Para state prosecutor Edson Souza told The Associated Press. Souza said Moura is charged with ordering Stang's murder and that he had yet to be arrested. Calls to Moura's last-known defense attorney were not immediately answered. Moura is accused of masterminding the 2005 shooting death of the 73-year-old Stang. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Stang spent three decades on the Amazon's wild frontier, working to preserve the rain forest and defend the rights of poor settlers whose lands were seized by powerful ranchers.

Fidel Castro asks US lawmakers how to improve ties

HAVANA (AP)—A "very healthy, very energetic" Fidel Castro asked visiting Congressional Black Caucus members what Cuba could do to help President Barack Obama improve bilateral relations during his first meet-

ing with U.S. officials since falling ill in 2006. Caucus leader Rep. Barbara Lee, a Democrat from California, said the ailing former Cuban president talked for nearly two hours with her and two other delegation members on Tuesday in a meeting seen as signaling Cuba's willingness to discuss better relations with the United States. "We believe it is time to open dialogue and discussion with Cuba," Lee told a news conference in Washington upon the caucus members' return. "Cubans do want dialogue. They do want talks. They do want normal relations."

Daughter hopes Fujimori verdict boosts candidacy

LIMA, Peru (AP)—The historic guilty verdict and 25-year sentence imposed on former President Alberto Fujimori for death squad killings and disappearances during his 1990s rule have thrust his daughter Keiko into the spotlight. The 33-year-old congresswoman says people's outrage over Tuesday's "vengeful" verdict will propel her to Peru's presidency in 2011. Then she'll pardon her father. But many analysts think Keiko Fujimori's appeal is limited and that she could end up becoming a one-issue candidate on a quixotic crusade. A three-judge Supreme Court panel found her 70-year-old father guilty of 25 murders in two operations by a military assassination team it said was created to fight the terror of the Shining Path insurgency with state-organized terror.

Environment

SVES Young Farmers Club explores papaya growing

By **ALVIN ARCEGA**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hi, my name is Alvin Arcega and I am a member of the SVES Young Farmers Club. The purpose of our club is to learn some horticulture. That's a big word for growing plants. Then we are going to share our knowledge with our family and community so that they can be more self-sufficient.

The best part of being in the club is we have lots of fun learning how to grow plants. Our teachers are Mr. Pete Arriola and Mr. Rick Gramlich. Our first project is about growing hybrid papayas. We are trying to see which hybrid papaya variety grows best on Saipan. We are also trying to find out if adding fertilizer to the starting soil will make the papaya seedlings grow better. This week we are working on flowers, growing them from seeds and cuttings.

What I also enjoy about the program is that I get to learn the types of food that plants need such as fertilizer. We mix the soil with the fertilizer in a wheelbarrow and plant the seeds in pots. My hybrid papaya variety is Red Lady and Mr. Pete's own is Maridol. After the papayas, we planted our own flower seeds (my favorite one



Alvin Arcega, Salofi Welch, and Annika Matias work on their plants.

is Marigold) and made cuttings from gardenias, hibiscus, and even tangerines. Later on we'll be growing shrimp and tilapia and starting a hydroponic garden.

There is so much to learn about agriculture. I am looking forward to learning and sharing with others what we learn. We

will let you know the results in a few months.

Here is the Papaya Project we are doing:

Experiment 1: HYBRID PAPAYAS

CNMI Standards and benchmarks explored:



From left to right, Salofi Welch, Maria Fleming, Illysa Geronimo, Annika Matias, and Alvin Arcega are members of the SVES Young Farmers Club.



Alvin Arcega misting cuttings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EPA launches Cell Phone Recycling Week

EPA launched Monday the National Cell Phone Recycling Week as part of its efforts to celebrate Earth Day the entire month of April.

The week, which began Monday, April 6, through April 12, is a joint effort between EPA's Plug-In To eCycling program and leading cell phone manufacturers, retailers and service providers to increase national awareness about the importance of cell phone recycling.

"With Earth Day approaching, people are thinking about what they can do to give back to our planet," said Matt Hale, director of EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Re-

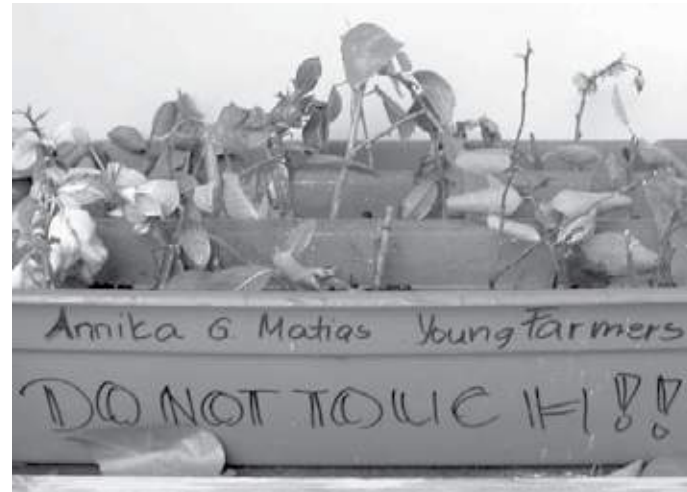
covery. "Recycling your old cell phone is a great way to conserve resources and help make a greener world."

To celebrate National Cell Phone Recycling Week, Plug-In partners across the country, including AT&T, Samsung, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless, are introducing a se-

cycled in 2007, EPA is encouraging consumers to increase the nation's cell phone recycling rate. Recycling or reusing cell phones helps the environment by saving energy and keeping reusable materials out of landfills. Cell phones and personal digital assistants are made of precious metals, copper, and plastics. Recycling or reusing

them not only conserves these materials, it also prevents air and water pollution and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that occur during manufacturing and when extracting and processing virgin materials.

If Americans recycled the 100 million cell phones that are no longer being used, enough energy would be saved to power more



Planter box with a variety of plant starts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOPIC	BENCHMARK	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Scientific Investigation Scientific Data Collection/Analysis/	Interpretation 5.1.1 Know questions that can be answered through scientific investigation 5.1.3 Use appropriate tools and techniques to collect, analyze, and interpret scientific data ■ analyzing scientific data ■ interpreting scientific data ■ scientific technique	The student: Describes three questions that can be answered using scientific investigation. Uses measurement tools (e.g., rulers, scales) to collect and analyze data about the local environment (e.g., rocks, insects).

Standard 1: Students understand the nature and processes of scientific inquiry and use scientific inquiry and scientific thinking skills to explore the world around them.

Problems:

1. Which hybrid papaya strain grows best on Saipan?
2. Does adding 16-16 fertilizer to starting pot soil mixture improve growth of papaya seedlings?

Materials: (preferably students work in pairs)

- 10 pots per student
- 1 cu. ft. potting soil per student



Beltran Muna holding planter with cuttings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- 1 lb fertilizer per student
- At least 2 types of hybrid papaya seeds
- Wheelbarrow or suitable mixing place.
- Sunny, safe place where all pots receive equal sun-

according to instructions, for "with fertilizer" pots (roughly a 10-year-olds small handful per pot).

- 6) Fill pots.
- 7) Plant correct seeds 3/4" deep. Cover and water gently.
- 8) Fill out table below as you go.
- 9) Water equally and frequently.
- 10) Record observations and measurements. Include photographic evidence.

- 11) Analyze data and reach conclusion.

Alvin Arcega is a 5th Grade student at the San Vicente Elementary School.

Web tools for Earth Month

The first Earth Day started 39 years ago when 20 million Americans decided we needed to do something about our environment. To begin Earth Month, EPA is launching several on-line communication tools to help educate Americans about how to protect their health and their environment.

Here is a list of several interactive tools that are currently available on EPA's Earth Day site (<http://www.epa.gov/earthday>):

- Daily environmental tips via email: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/tips.htm>
- Put the environmental tips widget on your own Web page, blog, or social networking profile: <http://www.epa.gov/widgets/>

[gov/widgets/](http://www.epa.gov/widgets/)

■ Listen to the daily audio tip podcast from EPA employees around the country. The podcast will be available for download and for free subscription on iTunes: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/podcasts/>

■ Join us around the country or get our take home kit: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/events.htm>

■ Share your photo and video creativity in several categories. We'll feature entries on our Earth Day site all month: <http://epa.gov/earthday/photoproject/> and <http://epa.gov/earthday/videoproject/>

Share your thoughts with our writers in Greenversations: [http://blog.epa.gov/blog/\(EPA\)](http://blog.epa.gov/blog/(EPA))

ON THE NET

Information about EPA's Plug-In to eCycling program: <http://www.epa.gov/plugin>
Information about cell phone recycling: <http://www.epa.gov/cellphones>

ries of in-store promotions, contests, and giveaways. The partners will provide in-store and online recycling opportunities for consumers.

With only 10 percent of unwanted cell phones being re-

Life & Style

Scoping out Florence, four centuries later

By SCOTT VOGEL
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Walk with me east a bit, past the tourists snapping bad flash pictures of the Duomo's famed baptismal doors at midnight—they're copies, Grandma!—and then a few blocks south of the place with the best artisanal sandwiches in the world and the slowest-moving line for them, a little hole in the wall called Antico Noe. (Get anything with porcini mushrooms.) Soon we arrive at the Piazza della Signoria, truly one of the world's great urban spaces, with just the right mix of Renaissance sculpture and clip joints hawking overpriced camera batteries. For full effect, you have to come here now, when it's very late, when the square is almost deserted and Cosimo de' Medici's horse glows promisingly in the Florentine moonlight.

Do you know where the statue of Galileo is? we ask Cellini's Perseus, whom we've interrupted in the middle of decapitating Medusa.

"Non lo so," he curtly replies.

What about you, replica of Michelangelo's "David," sheathed in scaffolding like a mummy, even as the real thing continues to pack 'em in over at the Galleria dell'Accademia?

"Mmh mmh mmh," he says.

None of the piazza's great sculptures knows about Galileo because he's been deposited way over here, in a corner of an alleyway in the shadow of the Uffizi Gallery. In Florence, anywhere you look you can find a Galileo hotel, a Galileo cookie, even a Galileo curling iron; as for Galileo Galilei himself, however, who invented the telescope exactly 400 years ago. ...

"Only I didn't invent it," says the Galileo statue. We stop and consider the man of the hour. Clearly the intent was to depict the Italian astronomer as perpetual cogitator, his hands reaching for the ineffable, the eyes focused on verities in the middle distance. But in

The grand basilica at Santa Croce is the final resting place for Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini and Galileo.

THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST

The aromas at Florence's Mercato Centrale make the bustling indoor market a popular tourist destination.

Florence: Details

By SCOTT VOGEL
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

While it's doubtful that Galileo's telescopes were the very first of their kind, the 400th anniversary of their first use was apparently momentous enough for the International Astronomical Union to declare 2009 the International Year of Astronomy. (For a list of events worldwide, visit www.astronomy2009.us.)

Galileo's mausoleum is in the nave at the Basilica di Santa Croce (Piazza Santa Croce 16, 011-39-055-246-6105, www.santacroce.firenze.it) along with those of Michelangelo and other Italian greats. The church is open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1-5:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission about \$6.60. The Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri (Largo E. Fermi 5, 011-39-055-275-21, www.arcetri.astro.it) is open by prior arrangement.

The city's food offerings are legendary. Visitors usually pay a visit to the glorious indoor stalls at the Mercato Centrale (Piazza del Mercato Centrale), which is open every day but Sunday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. There are many great restaurants worth a visit, but three good-value establishments are Antico Noe (Volta di San Piero 6/r, 011-39-055-234-0838), Trattoria da Benvenuto (Via della Mosca 16/r, 011-39-055-214-833) and Il Trippaio (Via dei Macci at Borgo della Croce).

this light Galileo looks a bit sheepish, as if he's about to inform you that you just traveled 4,000 miles only to discover that the telescope was actually invented in 1608, not 1609, and by a Dutch guy, not an Italian. Or maybe he's just saying that the whole telescope thing is more complicated than it first seems. Let's walk along the Arno a bit, shall we?

Over the river and beyond those hills is another hill, one you can't see from here. On it is the villa where Galileo spent the last years of his life under house arrest, condemned by the Catholic Church for all that his telescopes told him. To our left is Trattoria da Benvenuto, known for its excellent bistecca fiorentina, and also the American girls who drunk-dial their moms back home before ill-advisedly boarding Vespas with guys they've just met.

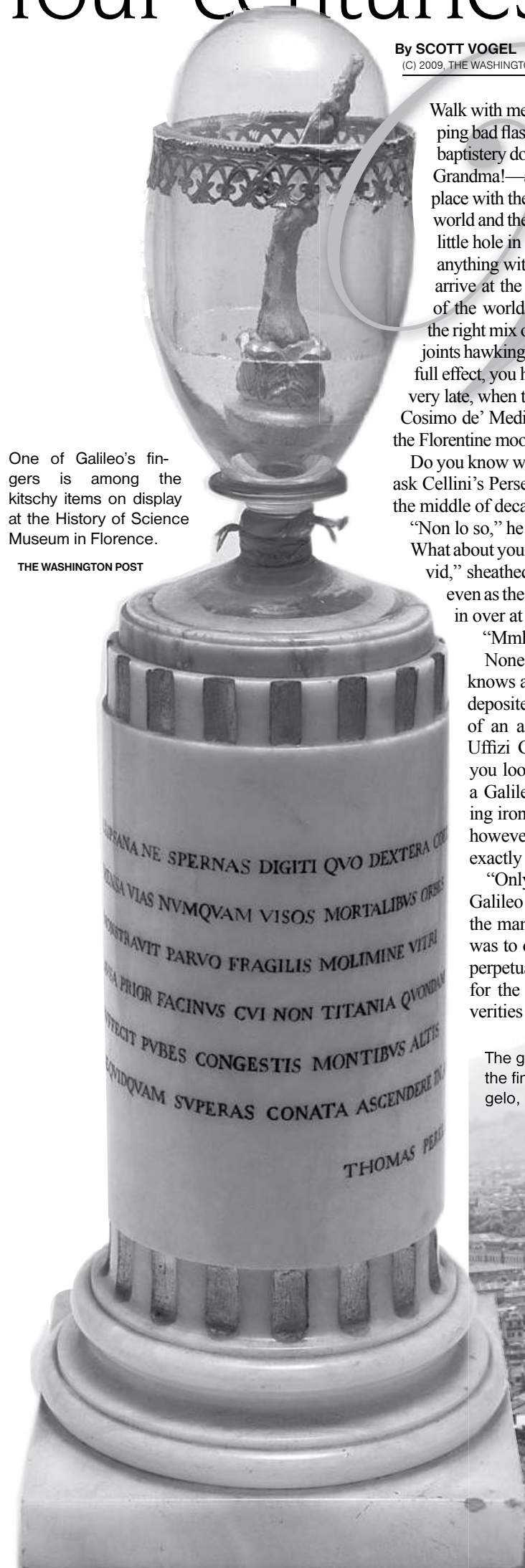
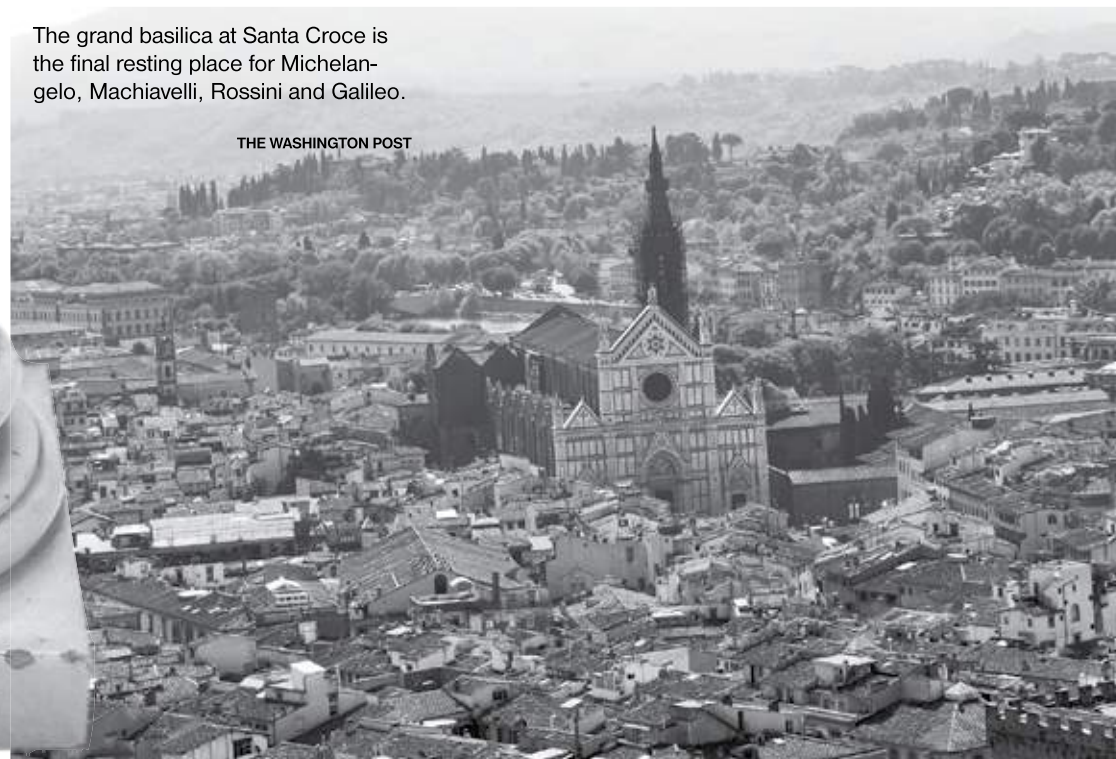
And in between, also on the Arno, is the Museum of the History of Science. It's a dry-sounding name and a perfectly apt one, in the judgment of some. But take one look at the Galileo kitsch on display and you'll be hooked, especially by the glass reliquary containing the middle finger of the astronomer's right hand, now a hideous mass of bone and sinew but still capable of giving the finger to the Church after all these years.

The museum has a special Galileo exhibit scheduled to open later this year; still, everything's already on display: the handsome collection of telescopes past, including the brass and glass marvel that astronomer Giovanni Donati used to observe a solar eclipse in 1860 and the vast collection of early wood-and-brass reflecting telescopes scattered throughout the building.

But it's the basement that houses the two cylinders that caused all the trouble. One's a bit more than four feet long, the other less than three; each is only a couple of inches in diameter. Glass lenses are mounted on tubes constructed of wood and leather, and neither is capable of magnifying an object more than 21 times. But there they are, the telescopes that permitted Galileo to discover the moons of Jupiter and sent him down that slippery slope: toward scientific proof that the Earth was not the center of the universe, to his condemnation by the Church, to his confinement in the villa on the hill.

Italians have long since made their peace with the fact that Galileo's own telescopes were not the first, but they are adamant that he was the first to grasp the significance of what he saw through them. We prove

See SCOPING on Page 19



One of Galileo's fingers is among the kitschy items on display at the History of Science Museum in Florence.

THE WASHINGTON POST

MIAMI (AP)—The two headquarters buildings of Bacardi USA are among Miami's most iconic landmarks: one an eight-story tower graced by blue and white Spanish tiles, the other a perfect square covered in an abstract modern glass mural.

On Tuesday, city leaders had been poised to discuss and vote on a proposal to designate them as historic structures that must be preserved, even though they are years short of the 50-year threshold typically required for designation.

But the meeting was postponed until May at the request of Bacardi, who sent its lawyer to the meeting to request more time so the rum-maker could study the issue. Supporters of preservation say the buildings are perfect examples of mid-century architecture with Latin flare that underscore Miami's identity.

"Miami's brand is its identity as a tropical city," said Allan Shulman, professor of architecture at the University of Miami. "The Bacardi buildings are exactly the sort that resonate with our consciousness of what Miami is about."

The city action comes as the rum and spirits company, owned by Bermuda-based Bacardi Limited, prepares to move to a new headquarters in suburban Coral Gables. Bacardi hasn't said what it plans to do with the buildings, located in Miami's urban core, but says it cares about them.

"We love our buildings and have only the best of intentions for our buildings," Bacardi USA spokeswoman Patricia M. Neal told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The company had no comment regarding the preservation status, other than saying it was a "quick move."

Miami officials, local architects and preservationists want to make sure the

Miami weighs preserving iconic Bacardi buildings

structures are protected, which is why the city's Historic Preservation Board has called a meeting. If the board eventually votes for historic designation, it would have to vote again at a later meeting to make it official.

"These buildings are terribly important to Miami's architectural

legacy," said Ivan Rodriguez, an architect with RJ Heisenbottle in Coral Gables.

They're also a symbol of the Cuban influence in Miami. The Bacardi family fled Cuba following Fidel Castro's revolution and, like tens of thousands of others from the island, settled in Miami.

Rodriguez

said the Bacardis had long been patrons of art and architecture—their former headquarters in Havana is a famous Art Deco structure—and brought that sensibility to Miami.

The blue-and-white tower of the USA headquarters was built in 1963 by Cuban-born architect Enrique Gutierrez on U.S. 1—Biscayne Boulevard—which was then the city's main artery before Interstate 95. The second building, which is suspended 47 feet off the ground and supported by a fire-engine red central core, was erected in 1973 by Coral Gables architect Ignacio Carrera-Justiz.

Experts say the buildings represent a Latin twist on mid-century architecture. While the older Art Deco style has been successfully preserved on Miami Beach, architecture enthusiasts in South Florida have only recently started trying to designate the unique, mid-century buildings as historic.

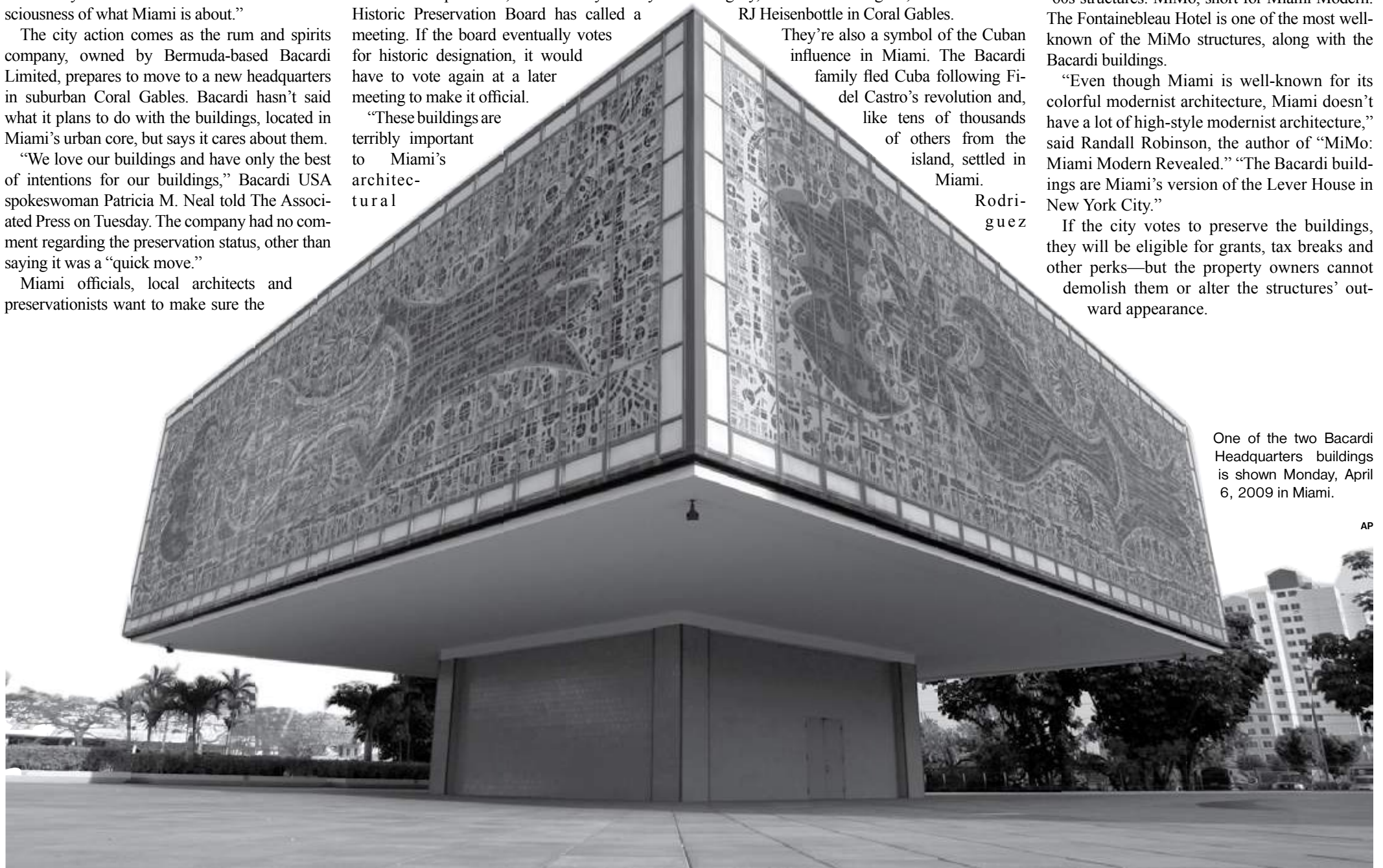
There's even a moniker for those '50s and '60s structures: MiMo, short for Miami Modern. The Fontainebleau Hotel is one of the most well-known of the MiMo structures, along with the Bacardi buildings.

"Even though Miami is well-known for its colorful modernist architecture, Miami doesn't have a lot of high-style modernist architecture," said Randall Robinson, the author of "MiMo: Miami Modern Revealed." "The Bacardi buildings are Miami's version of the Lever House in New York City."

If the city votes to preserve the buildings, they will be eligible for grants, tax breaks and other perks—but the property owners cannot demolish them or alter the structures' outward appearance.

One of the two Bacardi Headquarters buildings is shown Monday, April 6, 2009 in Miami.

AP



SCOPING

From Page 18

this at first light when a dramatic Florentine sun rises over the grand basilica at Santa Croce, its rays methodically gilding the piazza bricks one by one. The Franciscan church dates to 1294, its nave now the final resting place for Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini and many more of Italy's greatest hits, a little Westminster Abbey right here in Florence.

Galileo made the cut, too, though not right away. His body was interred in an adjacent chapel for nearly a century before being granted a Christian burial. (He'd wait another few centuries for the pope to un-condemn

him, in 1992.) All good things come to those who wait, though, and now, as you see, he's got a swank marble mausoleum in a prime location, just opposite Michelangelo. Yes, Galileo is once more parked in a corner, but hey, not too shabby for a heretic, right?

Back outside, the Florentine sun, clearly pre-Copernican, is sprinting through the sky, turning the city walls a thousand shades of gold. The tripe sandwiches at Il Trippaio are never shown to greater effect than at moments like this, rewarding all Americans willing to leave their parochial appetites behind. Meanwhile, on the other side of town, the decibel level is just starting to rise at the Mercato Centrale, the city's whirlwind indoor market, where

great wedges of Parmesan crumble at the slightest touch, where pastas come in every unnecessary shape you can think of, where the variety of spices reduces you to a state of utter olfactory chaos.

But those are things every visitor to Florence sees, each perfectly recommendable in an under-the-Tuscan-sun sort of way, but also terribly familiar. They alone can't save your trip. But a taxi ride up the hill just might. We catch a cab on the south side of the Ponte Vecchio and make our way to the Viale del Poggio Imperiale, which slowly, gracefully rises to a spot high above the city.

The taxi veers left at the villa-turned-girls'-school at the top of the hill, then passes through a gate and onto a private road

lined with sycamores. Soon we reach the Osservatorio Astrofisico and, up on its roof, a majestic view of Florence.

What else do we see? The Landi Degli'Innocenti boys, two elderly Italian gentlemen whose appreciation of Galileo depends not a jot on whether it was he or some Dutch guy who invented the telescope.

"Many people do something important but don't understand the importance," says Maurizio Landi, not at all defensively. "Galileo understood the importance of what he saw."

Both Maurizio and his brother Egidio, a professor in astronomy at the University of Florence, have offices at the Osservatorio, which is now used mostly for research and teaching, though

you can still see the planets and various nebulae from here when the weather's good. Today the weather is particularly good.

"In Galileo's time, the sky was considered everlasting, not corrupted by time," Egidio says, gesturing up at a brilliant, completely uncorrupted sky. "It was thought that outside the Earth, the laws of physics didn't apply."

Oh, but they do, countered Galileo, applying Copernican principles and "imagining that the stars were worlds of their own, which we now know is true," adds Maurizio, who is a researcher at the observatory. "It was an observation with consequences."

Henceforth, the universe would no longer be seen as an orderly assemblage with the Earth at its center. Now it

would be a fiasco in which the Earth played only a minor role. "Needless to say, the Catholic Church found this disturbing," Maurizio continues, leading us to the other side of the roof, the one facing away from Florence.

"He was exiled there," says Egidio, pointing to an adjacent hill and adding with a smile, "This was far enough from town to be considered exile at the time."

Galileo's villa is somewhere behind those trees, he promises. You see the sycamores but not the house, not a place of house arrest but a setting of—OK, I'll say it—arresting beauty, complete with all the olive trees and pastoral splendor that the term implies.

Wait. That was a prison?

In this photo provided by FOX, Adam Lambert performs in front of the judges on American Idol on March 31, 2009 in Los Angeles. AP



Rounds derided, Lambert gets standing O on 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Rounds continued her streak of disappointment on "American Idol."

The 24-year-old Memphis mom's eyes welled with tears as judge Simon Cowell derided her performance of "What's Love Got To Do With It" Tuesday night as a "second- or third-rate version of Tina Turner."

"I have no idea who you are," Cowell told Rounds. "You're not making the impact you should be making on the show. ... You've got to start becoming more original."

She has lost momentum in recent weeks, while Adam Lambert has emerged a serious front-runner on the popular Fox network competition.

The 27-year-old actor from Los Angeles received a standing ovation from none other than Cowell following his rendition of "Mad World" by Tears for Fears.

The theme on this week's performance show was songs from the year the contestants were born. All of them—except for 16-year-old Allison Iraheta—were born in the 1980s.

Cowell and his fellow judges loved Matt Giraud's slick take on the Stevie Wonder hit "Part-Time Lover." They

also gave Danny Gokey high marks for his cover of Mickey Gilley's version of "Stand By Me." They praised Anoop Desai's performance of Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors," although Cowell deemed the North Carolina college student a "singing yo-yo" for his erratic work.

And for the second week in a row, Cowell criticized Iraheta for something other than her singing. Last week, he picked on her outfit; this week, he advised the 16-year-old rocker to "start being talkative and likable. Because I still don't know much about you."

Iraheta, who has an easy laugh and can do an uncanny impression of Gokey, performed Bonnie Raitt's "I Can't Make You Love Me." Judge Randy Jackson compared her to original "Idol" Kelly Clarkson, declaring: "She could sing her face off and so can you!"

Cowell suggested Scott MacIntyre

go back to what he does best—playing the piano—after the 23-year-old from Scottsdale, Ariz., tried his hand at the electric guitar.

"It's my punk side coming out," MacIntyre joked.

Kris Allen generally gets good reviews, but the judges' panel mostly soured to the heartthrob's cover of "All She Wants To Do Is Dance." Cowell used some of his favorite words—"indulgent, boring, forgettable"—to describe it, causing audience members to shout their support of Allen: "You're hot!!!"

Responded Cowell: "So am I, but it's not about that."

One of the eight remaining finalists will get the boot on Wednesday night's results show. In a new rule this season, judges can save a contestant they feel has been wrongly eliminated by voting viewers.

Another celebrity eliminated from ABC's 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Alan Grier may have to take his dancing back to Broadway, because the comedian was eliminated from "Dancing With the Stars."

The 53-year-old was bounced from the ballroom Tuesday despite having improved his score by two points during the last-chance dance-off. Grier and professional partner Kym Johnson earned 24 points out of 30 for their Viennese Waltz Tuesday, beating Lawrence Taylor in the dance-off duel by four points. Judges praised the pair's improvement, but fans failed to keep the couple in the competition.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

"From week one, Kym and I planned on being in the dance-off on week five, so my evil plan is coming together," Grier joked before he was eliminated.

After learning his fate, he said the best part about appearing on the hit



This photo released by ABC shows Kym Johnson, left, and David Alan Grier performing on "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday March 30, 2009 in Los Angeles. AP

ABC show was getting to know his fellow contestants.

"There's so much support and camaraderie backstage that it's been awesome," he said. "My biggest goal was to try and make Kym proud."

Fans apparently spared the show's lowest scorer, reality star Steve-O, from elimination. He and professional partner Lacey Schwimmer earned just 18 points for their pantomime-inspired Viennese Waltz Monday, but escaped Tuesday's dance-off.

Tuesday's results show also featured appearances by a legend and a teen sensation. Etta James performed her signature classic, "At Last," and Disney star Demi Lovato sang her new single, "La La Land."

Besides Steve-O, remaining competitors include rapper Lil Kim, rodeo champ Ty Murray, former football star Lawrence Taylor, Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson, country singer Chuck Wicks, "Bachelor" star Melissa Rycroft and actor Gilles Marini.

Part of 'Cuckoo's' hospital to be saved for museum

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—It's one of the most memorable moments in movie history: silent Chief Bromden smashes a heavy appliance through a barred window to escape from a cruel mental institution in the 1975 classic "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

As demolition begins on most of the 125-year-old building where the movie was filmed, workers plan to preserve one section and the marble hydrotherapy device Bromden used for a museum of mental health.

"It's the thing that many people remember about the movie," said hospital spokeswoman Patricia Feeny.

Workers on Monday used a track-

hoe with a 95-foot arm to begin tearing down the roof of the Oregon State Hospital's J Building to make way for a new 620-bed hospital complex that's to be finished by 2011.

Feeny said the movie's producers donated the prop that resembles a large bathroom sink with various faucets and spigots, to the hospital. It has been on display outside the hospital superintendent's office.

The movie based on Ken Kesey's 1962 novel was fictional, but it has become closely associated over the years with real-life problems at Oregon's crumbling, overcrowded psychiatric facility.

In the Oscar-winning story, Randle P.

McMurphy, played by Jack Nicholson, locks horns with the authoritarian Nurse Ratched, who has cowed the institution's patients into dejected submission.

In the movie's climax, Chief Bromden, played by late actor Will Sampson, becomes enraged after hospital officials perform a lobotomy on Nicholson's character. He then lifts the machine over his head and throws it through the window to clear the way for his escape.

Other props from the movie planned for the museum display include a bathtub used by Danny DeVito's character and a large broom Chief Bromden pushes throughout the film.

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Jay Leno was in his element—pacing the stage, running his hand through his hair and launching joke after joke to the delight of the audience.

It was something he had done in clubs and other venues across the nation thousands of times before.

But this was no ordinary show for the "Tonight Show" host.

After entertaining the crowd, Leno asked that the house lights be brought up and he spoke not as a comic, but as



Jay Leno performs in what is being billed as "Jay's Comedy Stimulus Plan" at the Palace in the Detroit suburb of Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday, April 7, 2009. AP

a concerned citizen and a friend.

"It's been a privilege to come here and talk to you," he said.

Those words ended Leno's gig Tuesday night at The Palace of Auburn Hills, which he put on at no cost to the capacity crowd. Tickets and parking were free.

The NBC late-night star, an avid car collector whose love of autos has brought him to Detroit from time to time, said he wanted to do some good for an area struggling with a high jobless rate and imploding auto industry. Michigan's unemployment rate was at

12 percent in February, the highest in the nation.

"These are the hardest-working people in the world, and I think they're getting screwed," Leno told reporters before the show. "And it doesn't seem fair."

He initially only planned a single show, but heavy demand prompted organizers to add a Wednesday night performance of what was being billed as "Jay's Comedy Stimulus Plan." In all, there will be 30,000 tickets distributed.

The NBA's Detroit Pistons donated their home for the event.

A surprise guest introduced Leno, Detroit's own Kid Rock, whose appearance on stage elicited a loud response from the Palace crowd. "What a great night for the state of Michigan and the people of Detroit," said the man born Robert Ritchie.

He introduced Leno, who bounded on stage and embraced the rocker. The first row then rushed toward the stage and Leno went down the line slapping and shaking hands, just as he does every night before his "Tonight Show" monologue begins.

Leno failed on several occasions to get his set started, because the roar of the crowd and a chant of "Thank you, Jay!" drowned out his words.

He eventually was able to run through his routine, riffing on current events, celebrities, relationships and politics.

Ever the car nut, Leno also sprinkled in a few auto-themed cracks, including making fun of the Smart car and yuppie couples who buy Lexuses for each other at Christmas.

He got a lot of laughs when he introduced the story of efforts to build a car that runs on urine.

"How are you gonna fill that tank," he joked. "Most men can't even hit the bowl."

When the jokes had run their course, the lights came up and Leno spoke from his heart.

"How many union people we got here?" he asked.

Many in the audience clapped and yelled.

Beatles catalog to be digitally remastered

LONDON (AP)—Beatles fans will have a chance to add substantially to their collections when a digitally remastered version of the band's catalog becomes available in September.

Apple Corps Ltd. and EMI Music announced Tuesday that they will be releasing the new discs worldwide on Sept. 9, the same day as the release of a video game, "The Beatles: Rock Band."

The release continues a recent trend of repackaging and tweaking The Beatles' output, which fans may have thought ended in

1970 with "Let It Be."

Each of the dozen CDs will include the original U.K. album art and new, expanded liner notes, according to an announcement on The Beatles Web site. For a limited time, each CD will also be embedded with a brief documentary film about the album.

The collections "Past Masters Vol. I and II," including singles, out-takes, live versions and B-sides which weren't on the albums, will be reissued in one package.

In addition, Apple Corps and EMI will be releasing a boxed set

named "The Beatles in Mono," with the original monaural versions of 10 albums plus two further discs of mono masters of early material. The mono versions of "Help!" and "Rubber Soul" also include the 1965 stereo mixes.

There has been no breakthrough yet on negotiations to get the Beatles' extensive catalog available for legal downloading.

"Discussions regarding the digital distribution of the catalog will continue," Apple Corps and EMI said.

The repackaging began in 1973

with "The Beatles/1962-1966" and "The Beatles/1967-1970."

Then came "Live at the BBC" in 1994, "Past Masters" in 1988, "Anthology 1" and 2 and 3 in 1996, "Yellow Submarine Song-track" in 1999, "1" in 2000, "Let It Be ... Naked" in 2003 and "Love" in 2007.

Apple said the new package is the fruit of four years of work by engineers at the Abbey Road Studios.

The surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, played together at a charity benefit in New York several days ago.

Redmond O'Neal faces drug charge, arraignment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors charged the son of Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett on Tuesday with a felony count of bringing drugs to a jail.

It was the latest legal problem for Redmond O'Neal, who was arrested Sunday while out on bail in another case. Sheriff's deputies who stopped O'Neal at a security checkpoint said the 24-year-old was carrying heroin while taking a friend to a Los Angeles area jail.

He remained in custody



O'Neal

Tuesday, held on \$75,000 bail. His arraignment was postponed until April 24.

O'Neal's lawyer did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment Tuesday.

Prosecutors amended their initial complaint to note that O'Neal was already on bail for a drug arrest last year in a case involving his father.

Redmond and Ryan O'Neal were arrested last year at the actor's Malibu home after deputies said they found meth-

amphetamine and drug paraphernalia during a search. Redmond O'Neal was on probation for a previous drug conviction and has pleaded not guilty in that case.

Ryan O'Neal pleaded guilty in the case and was ordered into an 18-month drug diversion program. He was nominated for a best actor Academy Award for 1970's "Love Story."

Fawcett is recovering from complications from a medical procedure to treat anal cancer that has spread to her liver.

Stars trek to Australia for new Enterprise voyage

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—The new cast of "Star Trek" has launched the starship Enterprise on its maiden voyage, with the crew showing a lot of respect for their predecessors.

The 11th big-screen film in the sci-fi series had its world premiere Tuesday at the Sydney Opera House in Australia in advance of its debut in theaters May 8.

Among the stars on hand: Chris Pine, who takes on William Shatner's old role as James Kirk; Zachary Quinto, who inherits Leonard Nimoy's Mr. Spock; Karl Urban, filling the shoes of DeForest Kelley's Dr. McCoy; and Eric Bana, who plays a villainous Romulan.

Out of admiration for the original Kirk, Pine noted that when he was cast, he wrote Shatner a "letter of introduction and said who I was and what I was doing."

Quinto had a chance to form a personal relationship with Nimoy, who reprises his role as the older Spock. The new Spock said he aims to carve out his own path



Director and Producer JJ Abrams second left, pictured with cast members at the world premier of the movie "Star Trek" at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Pictured from left, Zachary Quinto, Abrams, executive producer Bryan Burk, Chris Pine, Karl Urban, Eric Bana and John Cho.

as the Vulcan scientist with the pointed ears.

"Leonard and I have become very close in this process and his experience has been unique to him and mine will be unique to me," Quinto said.

Directed by J.J. Abrams, "Star

Trek" is a prequel to the 1960s TV series and the subsequent movies, relating how Enterprise Capt. Kirk, best buddy Spock and their Enterprise crew mates first came together.

John Cho, who plays Mr. Sulu, said he avoided imitating the

performance of his predecessor, George Takei.

"I didn't think it would be wise to do a copy of George Takei's performance," Cho said. "It just didn't seem like the right thing to do, and J.J. didn't ask me to do that, so I avoided it."

Arraignment in Anna Nicole Smith drug case delayed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer-turned-boyfriend lashed out at prosecutors on Tuesday, calling the prescription drug case involving his client and two doctors misguided and overreaching.

Steve Sadow, a lawyer from Atlanta, said outside court that the charges against Howard K. Stern are baseless and added that his client wouldn't have done anything to hurt Smith, who died of a drug overdose two years ago.

"Howard loved Anna Nicole

with all of his heart and would never have done anything intentional to harm her," Sadow said without taking questions from reporters.

Stern and Drs. Khristine Eroshevich and Sandeep Kapoor face charges they conspired to provide prescription drugs to the former Playboy model before her accidental overdose death in February 2007 at a Florida hotel.

Stern, 40, and Eroshevich, 61, made their first court appearance Tuesday, but Superior Court

Commissioner Kristi Lousteau rescheduled their arraignments to May 13. Kapoor is also scheduled to be arraigned May 13. All three are free on bond.

Sadow criticized the two-year probe by the state attorney general, state medical and insurance officials and the Drug Enforcement Administration. He said California Attorney General Jerry Brown has "maliciously and viciously labeled Anna a drug addict knowing full well that it's legally unsupportable" under

California law.

Sadow suggested the attorney general filed the case merely to advance his political career. Brown, a Democrat who served two terms as governor beginning in 1974, is considering another run for governor next year.

"Brown should simply be ashamed of himself," he said. "Brown, not Howard K. Stern, is the real enabler in this misguided and unprecedented prosecution."

Brown called the accusations "silly" and "completely out of line."

Phone call won't ease guilt caused by 20-year-old affair

DEAR ABBY: I was pleased that you advised "Remorseful in Georgia" (Jan. 27) to find another outlet for her guilt and "leave the scab alone." I was recently contacted by my fiancé's former girlfriend, a woman who had made several attempts to break us up when we first became a couple. Although she apologized for the problems she tried so hard to cause between us, all it did was dredge the feelings of anger and anxiety up again. She was calling for purely selfish reasons—not to give me the chance to confront her, but under the guise of "wanting to be friends." Whatever made her think I would want her friendship?!

If "Remorseful" needs a way to rid herself of her guilt, I recommend she get therapy. She may be trying to escape her karma. In my experience, she can run, but she can't hide.

UNTOUCHABLE IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNTOUCHABLE: Some readers felt I should have preached forgiveness, and they referenced AA and the Bible—both of which advocate making amends to those we have harmed in the past. They may or may not be right, but I saw no reason for "Remorseful" to transfer her burden of guilt to the shoulders of the person she wronged—just in case that woman didn't have the inner strength to be forgiving. However, read on:

DEAR ABBY: Sorry, but I don't agree with your reply to "Remorseful." It's never too late to say "I'm sorry," no matter what the offense. The words don't benefit only the person carrying the guilt. Someone who has been hurt in such a traumatic fashion needs to know that his or her pain has finally been acknowledged, even 20 years later.

Those women will never be friends. But "Remorseful" admitting her part in the betrayal, albeit without comparing it to her own past pain, could start both women on a journey to emotional healing. I am sure that's why AA and similar support groups stress the need to seek forgiveness for past wrongs as one of the steps to keeping it together.

DIANE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR ABBY: I was in the same situation as "Remorseful." Although my husband and I had been divorced for years, I still felt I needed to apologize to his former wife. I finally summoned up the nerve to place the call. I told her who I was, how sorry I was for the pain I had caused her and asked for forgiveness.

She was gracious. She laughed and said, "Honey, you did me the biggest favor anyone has ever done for me. You took him off my hands!" We laughed, we cried and had a wonderful conversation. I'm so glad I made that call.

RELIEVED IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: This is for "Remorseful"—the gal who feels guilt from 20 years ago for an affair she had. Why do women always feel the need to apologize for things that MEN do? The man was the adult here. The gal was 20 and living in a fantasyland of happily ever after. If the ex-wife feels anger, she should direct it where it is needed—at the HUSBAND, not the young girl lured in with fake promises.

Get over it! If the ex-wife is so stupid as to be bitter over a failed marriage from 20 years ago—that she herself probably had a hand in the demise of—then it's HER problem and not "Remorseful's." Stop letting the men off the hook. The husband didn't care, so why should she?

SUE FROM MESA, ARIZ.

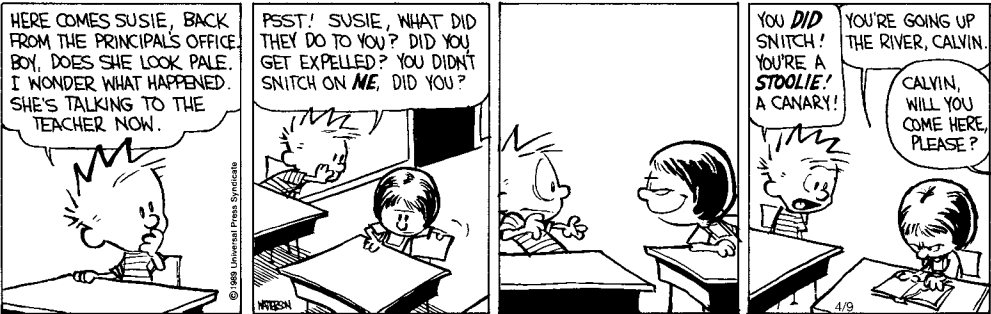
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

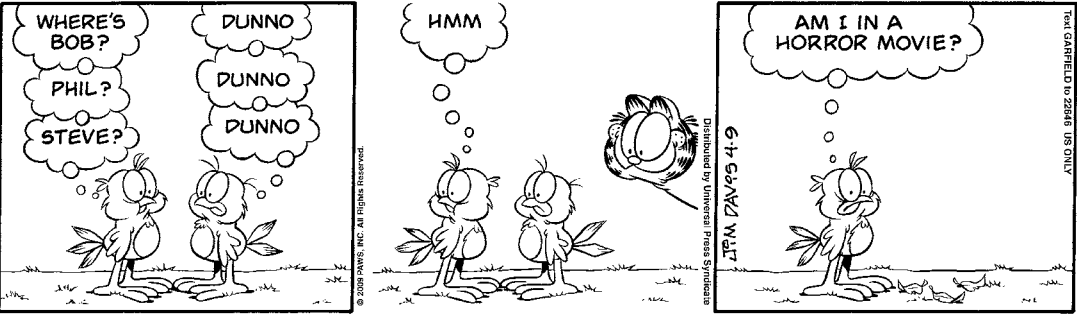
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



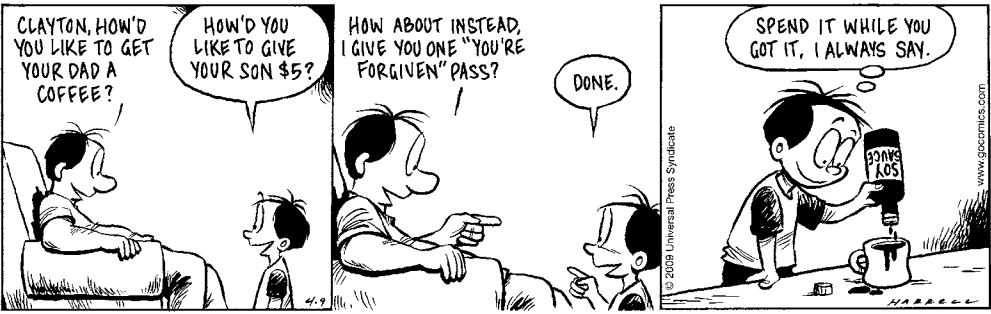
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Satan's minions

5 Portion of N.A.

8 Relinquish

12 "Arrivederci"

13 Island souvenir

14 Graph line

15 Vivacity

16 Pitch

17 Supermarket supply

18 Constant sufferer

20 Do laps in the pool

22 Irreligiousness

26 Pivots

29 Plagiarize

30 "The Matrix" role

31 Round of applause

32 "Holy mackerell"

33 Cribbage scorers

DOWN

1 SALT

2 Actress

3 Twosome

4 Allayed

5 Extreme

6 Vast

7 Blue

8 Woodsy

9 San

10 Delve

11 Curvy

12 "Indeed"

13 Symbol of intrigue

14 Grimace

15 Napo0

16 Doggerel

17 Ogden

18 Energy

19 Greek H

20 Marry

34 Scratch (out)

35 Guy's

36 Tapestry

37 Staff

38 addition

39 Mother of Don

40 Juan

41 Pollen-producing organ

42 Nix a bill

43 Hooter

44 Pop flavor

45 Detail

46 Born

47 Centers

48 Put together

49 Mag. staffers

50 "OK"

23 Billy

24 Goats

25 Gruff foe

26 Nintendo rival

27 Velvety forest

28 growth

29 Writer

30 Silverstein

31 Huron, for one

32 Like a first draft

33 Where the action is?

34 Didactic

35 "Golly!"

36 Pismire

37 Travelocity mascot

38 NYC hockey team, for short

39 Grimace

40 Napo0

41 leon's exile site

42 Doggerel

43 Ogden

44 Energy

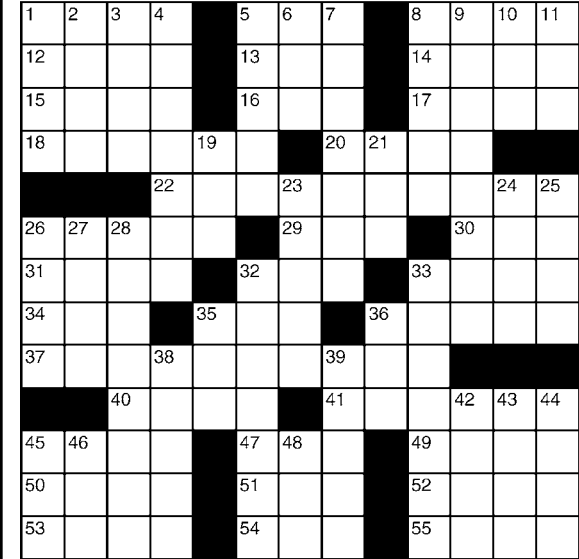
45 Greek H

46 Marry

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keshia Knight Pulliam, 30; Austin Peck, 38; Cynthia Nixon, 43; Paulina Porizkova, 44

Happy Birthday: Times are changing and you are usually the pioneer, so let go of the past, live in the present and plan for the future. Your creative and unusual approach to life will help you get through any losses or setbacks you face. You are strong and capable of handling pressure as long as you don't let anger be your guide. Your numbers are 8, 17, 20, 25, 32, 37, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep a lid on private matters. You don't want to be embarrassed. Someone is likely to push you to do something that doesn't sit right with you. Stick to your standards and keep things out in the open. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let uncertainties get you down. When things aren't clear-cut, wait until you understand the implications before you make a decision. Someone you respect will give you a different perspective. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dazzle everyone with your compassion, creativity and desire to do something unique. You will impress the people who can influence your life and, in turn, get the introductions you need to reach your goals. Friendship is in the stars. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Social events may lead to an embarrassing situation if you have been withholding information or gossiping. Someone may put the

pressure on you to do more than your fair share. Don't be afraid to say no. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Things look bright and a chance to make a difference is apparent. Alter anything at home that isn't to your liking and you will ease your stress and encourage the people you care about to do the same. Love is on the rise. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take no for an answer. Follow through and make sure everyone is pulling his or her weight. You can control the outcome of a tenuous situation by staying on top of what everyone else is doing. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your emotions will push you to take action but don't do the wrong thing because you aren't happy with someone. Instead, focus on your creative outlets. Get involved with someone who can expand your interests and outlook. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by appearances. You have to get the story straight and stick to what you believe. Nothing can be resolved easily but, at least if you know what you are dealing with, you stand a better chance of getting a fair shake. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Approach something you've been trying to accomplish from a different angle and you will have better luck. Talk to people with whom you used to associate professionally or personally. With a clear attitude and plan, you can finish what you started. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen but don't get involved in someone else's scheme. Once you recognize what needs to be done, you can go it alone and do much better. Partnerships are not your best bet at the moment. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Something good will come of an upset you recently endured. A gift, winning or gain of some sort is heading your way. A old friend will remind you of something you used to do that will help you achieve something you want now. *****

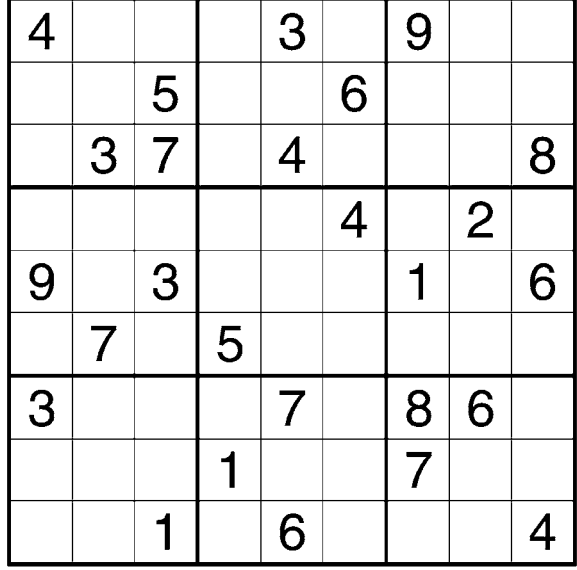
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take a back seat to anyone who is causing trouble for you. In order to make the most of an upcoming opportunity, you must temper any emotional issues. You can manipulate the situation in your favor. ***

Birthday Baby: You have a way with words and are popular, playful and unpredictable. You are open, receptive and caring, a strong competitor and a good friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

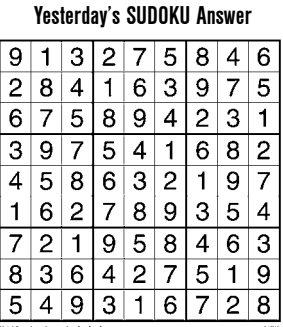
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/09 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JEWISH RITUALS										Solution: 8 letters									
C	P	N	Y	E	H	E	H	S	U	D	D	I	K	S					
H	I	A	O	A	T	A	A	S	R	M	Y	L	O	H					
U	R	R	Y	I	R	R	C	H	E	V	R	A	A	A					
P	S	I	C	O	T	M	O	Z	H	D	M	R	S	B					
P	L	E	N	U	F	A	U	G	S	R	O	S	H	B					
A	R	E	I	U	M	Z	C	L	O	T	L	H	S	A					
H	M	A	R	R	A	C	M	I	K	V	A	H	C	T					
A	S	F	F	H	E	I	I	I	F	E	H	T	G	O					
L	U	A	T	O	T	T	K	S	T	I	S	A	N	N					
A	K	S	E	Z	H	U	C	A	I	Z	R	B	I	A					
D	K	T	V	O	I	S	R	A	D	O	V	U	S	B					
V	O	O	I	R	A	T	S	H	L	D	N	A	P	R					
A	T	A	L	I	T	Z	E	S	Y	I	S	H	O						
H	A	K	A	D	E	Z	T	I	L	A	H	S	V	Q					
L	E	C	H	A	Y	I	M	E	T	B	K	P	H	R					

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Aliyah, Atruf, Bath, Bless, Chevra, Chodesh, Chuppah, Circumcisions, Etrog, Fast, Havdalah, Holy, Kaddish, Kashrut, Kiddush, Kosher, Lechayim, Menorah, Mezuzah, Mikvah, Mitzvah, Mitzvot, Phylacteries, Pray, Purification, Qorbanot, Recite, Rosh, Shabbat, Shalom, Shofar, Sing, Star, Sukkot, Tallit, Tevilah, Torah, Tzedakah, Tzitzit, Yarmulke

Yesterday's Answer: Sketch

WOL 28 is here! To order, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1 p/h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6460. Order online at upuzzles.com. I contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT? Solution: Pied Piper

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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO LEASE

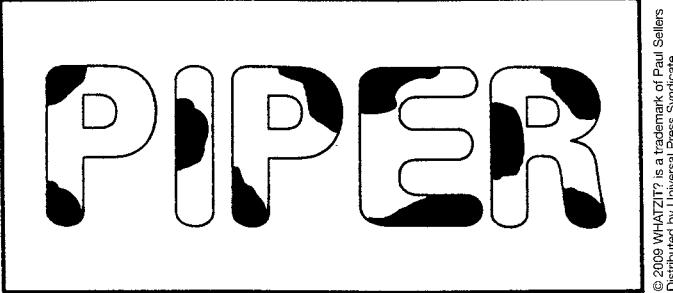
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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Saipan Tribune

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: April 9, 2009 Closing date: April 24, 2009

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy for Saipan:

**Three (3) General Maintenance-III
Two (2) ARFF Trainee**

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above position may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd floor Arrival Wing) or CPA's Human Resource Office (2nd Floor Departure Wing) of the Saipan International Airport, or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Pre-qualified applicants for ARFF must undergo and pass the physical fitness test as prerequisite for interview and selection process. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., April 24, 2009.**

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/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

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235-NEWS

UConn wins NCAA title in 76-54 rout of Louisville



ST. LOUIS (AP)—With one final blowout, UConn grabbed the national title and a piece of basketball history.

Tina Charles had 25 points and grabbed 19 rebounds Tuesday night as UConn routed Louisville 76-54 and captured the Huskies' sixth national championship.

It wasn't just that Connecticut claimed another title. It was how they did it.

UConn won every one of its 39 games by double digits, an unprecedented run in college basketball.

Charles was the star of the last big win. She commanded both ends of the floor and Louisville, which lost badly to UConn for the third time this season, had no one who could stop her.

Coach Geno Auriemma had said before the tournament that his junior center would be the key to UConn winning the title. A year after he benched her in the NAAs for inconsistent play, Charles delivered.

"I'm really happy for her," Auriemma said.

"I told Tina before the game, I said 'Sunday night you played against an All-American center and you played defense and you worked as hard as the best center in America and now you have to prove it tonight' and she did."

Charles was 11-for-13 from the field, and fell just one rebound short of becoming only the second player ever in a championship game to have at least 20 points and 20 rebounds. She was named the outstanding player of the Final Four.

Maya Moore and senior Renee Montgomery each added 18 points for the Huskies.

"It was another challenge and I wanted to show my teammates they could depend on me,"



The Connecticut team celebrate its win in the championship game at the women's NCAA college basketball tournament Final Four on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in St. Louis.

Charles said. "I wanted to send off Renee being happy. I wanted her to have all smiles for the next step in her career."

Angel McCoughtry finished off her stellar career for Louisville with 23 points. Candyce Bingham was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 10 points as Louisville (34-5) shot a dismal 31 percent from the floor.

Unlike its previous two wins over Louisville, it took about 15 minutes for UConn to begin pulling away from the Cardinals.

With the game tied at 17, Connecticut scored nine of the next 11 points, including seven by Charles, to take a 26-19 lead

on her three-point play.

After Bingham scored to draw Louisville to 30-24, the Huskies turned up their defense. Louisville missed 18 straight shots spanning the half and Connecticut built a 19-point advantage.

"It's the big stage, our first time playing in a national championship game," Louisville coach Jeff Walz said. "The first five minutes was what I was most concerned about. We went back and forth and I felt really good about things. Then we started to rush some shots."

Louisville (34-5) came into its first title game with little pres-

sure. The Cardinals were big underdogs, bidding to knock off three No. 1 seeds on their way to a championship.

Busloads of Louisville fans made the 250-mile trip from Kentucky to pull for the Cardinals, and even though the game wasn't sold out for the first time in 17 years, the matchup of Big East schools still had a raucous feel to it.

But it was the Connecticut players celebrating at the end as they carried Auriemma off the court.

The victory put the Huskies in the same class as UConn's other unbeaten teams, in 1995 and

2002. Besides Connecticut, only Tennessee and Texas have run through a season without a loss.

The title was Connecticut's first since 2004. UConn was suffering through its longest "drought" since first winning in 1995.

Only the Lady Vols, with eight titles, have more than the Huskies.

With UConn's victory, the Big East also became the first conference ever to sweep the NCAA and WNIT championships in the same season. South Florida topped Kansas 75-71 on Saturday to win the WNIT, which began in 1998.

Oklahoma forward Blake Griffin headed to NBA



NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Once Blake Griffin stopped and really thought about his future, it didn't take long for him to reach a decision.

Griffin announced Tuesday that he will give up his final two years of eligibility and head to the NBA after a sophomore season in which he was honored as college basketball's top player. It was a choice coach Jeff Capel called a "no-brainer," with Griffin establishing himself as a likely candidate to be the No. 1 overall pick in the draft this June.

"I felt in my mind from the time that I actually thought about it that this would be the right decision," said Griffin, wearing a black suit, a grey shirt and a tie. "I remember talking to Coach Capel last year after I made my decision of coming back and he said I had the chance to be in this position and I should take it."

"This has been a dream for me. It has been a dream for a

lot of guys. I was really comfortable with the decision this time around."

Griffin helped the Sooners win 30 games in a season for only the fifth time in school history, shattering the school records for double-doubles and rebounds along the way. He said it was now time to take his game to the next level.

"It's tough to walk away from something like this but at the same time, it's a big opportunity and I felt like I was ready for it this year," Griffin said.

After declaring last year he would stay at Oklahoma for at least one more season, Griffin said he wanted to be able to contribute immediately in the NBA before he would turn pro. For him to feel like he was "100 percent sure" that he was ready, he said he'd probably have to be in line to be the No. 1 pick in the draft.

Griffin couldn't have done much more to make his case for that spot.

He was honored by The Associated Press and several other groups as college basketball's player of the year after leading the nation with 30 double-doubles and 14.4 rebounds per game while also averaging a Big 12-best 22.7 points. In the NCAA tournament, he was even better—averaging 28.5 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Sooners to the regional finals, where they lost to eventual national champion North Carolina.

"This is the right decision. In my mind, it's a no-brainer," Capel said. "It wasn't a decision to really debate because it's the right one, and it's the best thing for Blake."

For two days after the Sooners got eliminated from the NCAA tournament on the brink of the Final Four, Griffin was too disappointed to think about the NBA. He then left for Detroit and a whirlwind circuit of awards presentations. When everything settled down, it was

time to look toward the future.

"Once I started thinking about it, it was an easy decision," Griffin said.

Griffin got to spend two more seasons playing alongside his older brother, Taylor, after the two teamed up to win back-to-back state championships in high school. At Oklahoma, they helped rebuild a program that was on shaky ground because of NCAA sanctions left over from Kelvin Sampson's telephone recruiting scandal.

"It will be weird not having these two guys around," said Capel, who just finished his third season at Oklahoma. "Since I've been here, they've kind of been a security blanket for me. ... I think the thing that both of those kids have done is that they've made this a place where other guys want to come, where we're able to attract really good talent."

"I think that's going to be their legacy as they move on to better

things, both Blake and Taylor, just kind of being the guys that made it cool to come to OU."

Capel has two more McDonald's All-Americans coming to campus next season in Keith "Tiny" Gallon and Tommy Mason-Griffin, but there's still a chance he could lose another beyond Griffin. Willie Warren, the Big 12's freshman of the year last season, hasn't announced yet whether he'll be back for another year with the Sooners.

"I don't know if it's settled," Capel said.

Had Griffin decided to stay, it would have added another layer to Oklahoma's unprecedented feat of having the Heisman Trophy winner and the AP men's basketball player of the year in the same year. Sooners quarterback Sam Bradford already passed up the chance to make an early jump to the NFL after his sophomore season, and he and Griffin could have both returned for another year of college.

Tar Heels return home to celebrate fifth championship



CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina saved the last

dance for Danny Green.

The Carolina blue-clad crowd prodded him, and "Jump Around" blared from the speakers in his honor. So, just as he did before four seasons' worth of tip-offs at the Smith Center, the senior shook his hips, dangled his arms and cut loose one last time.

Whoop it up, Tar Heels, you brought another NCAA championship trophy back to campus.

Coach Roy Williams' team returned home Tuesday to celebrate the proud program's fifth national title and first since 2005 with about 13,000 revved-up fans less than 24 hours after beating Michigan State 89-72 in Detroit.

Thousands of fans poured into the stands and onto the arena floor before the Tar Heels' flight had even landed at nearby Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and they cheered fanatically every time live television footage of the team's motorcade was shown on the giant video boards.

Last to enter the arena was Williams, who carried in the trophy and the net he helped cut down at Ford Field.

"I stood up here in 2005 and told you how great it was to win a national championship for our alma mater," Williams said. "And I'll tell you right now, winning the second national championship for our alma mater is even sweeter."

Especially for seniors Tyler Hansbrough, Bobby Frasor and Green.

They came to campus in the fall of 2005, a few months after the school claimed its previous title, and went on to post a 101-14 record through four years with three regular-season ACC titles and two Final Four appearances. They capped their run with a never-in-doubt victory over the Spartans, who got no closer than 13 points in the second half.

"We did it. But the way we did it? Isn't that great?" Green asked the crowd.

Then, the fans pleaded for Green to dance one last time, prompting fellow senior Mike Copeland to hold the back of Green's suit jacket while he danced like a puppet—the trademark move that earned him the nickname "Dancin' Danny"—to the 1990s rap song that they play before every tipoff at the Smith Center.

Later, they showed season highlights on the arena's four video screens, located high above scoreboards that read: "Carolina 89, Mich. St. 72."

"If I'm lucky enough to coach another 20 years, it's going to be awful hard for kids to give me the memories that this club did," Williams said. "But I will always remember not just the wins. I will remember the fun, the laughs and I will remember how lucky Roy Williams was to be their coach."

Pedroia, Beckett help Red Sox beat Rays



BOSTON(AP)—AL MVP Dustin Pedroia homered on the second

pitch he saw this season and Josh Beckett struck out 10 in seven innings of two-hit ball to lead the Red Sox to a 5-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday in a makeup of their rained-out opener.

Jason Varitek also homered for Boston in a rematch of last year's AL championship series, which the Rays won in seven games to advance to the franchise's first World Series.

Tampa Bay scored one run off Beckett (1-0) and two in the eighth off Hideki Okajima before Justin Masterson pitched out of a jam and Jonathan Papelbon got three outs for the save.

James Shields (0-1) gave up five runs and nine hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Athletics 6, Angels 4

At Anaheim, Calif., Jason Giambi, Jack Cust and Ryan Sweeney had three hits apiece to lead a 16-hit attack by Oakland.

The A's bounced back from a 3-0 loss in Monday night's season opener, when they managed only three hits.

Oakland pushed across two runs in the seventh inning against Kevin Jepsen (0-1) to take a 5-3 lead. Eric Chavez had a run-scoring fielder's choice and Cust picked up his second RBI of the game with a broken-bat bloop single to center field. Giambi added an RBI double in the eighth.

White Sox 4, Royals 2

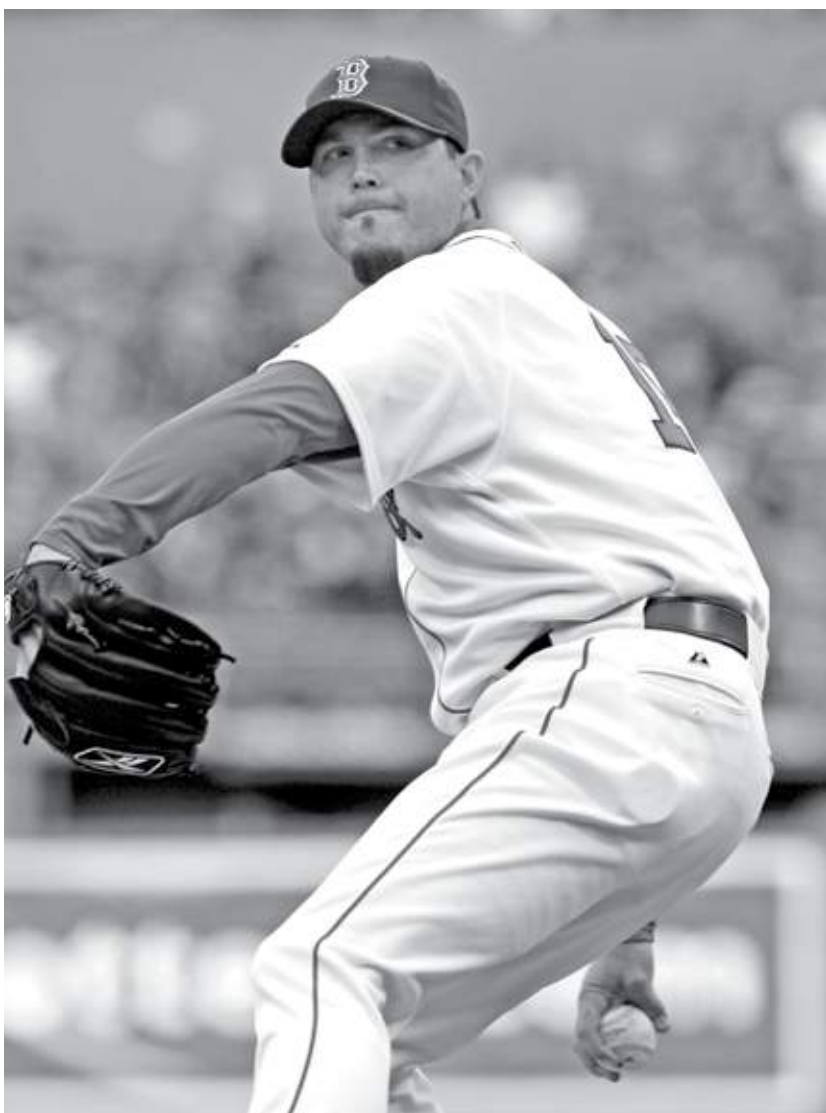
At Chicago, Jim Thome hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, rallying Chicago past Kansas City in a season opener delayed a day because of bad weather.

The White Sox trailed 2-1 when Thome hit his 542nd career home run, connecting with two outs off Royals newcomer Kyle Farnsworth (0-1).

Thome's shot gave Chicago the win on a day when Mark Buehrle struggled with his control, and it erased a solid outing by Kansas City's Gil Meche, who pitched seven strong innings.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4

At Toronto, Rod Barajas hit a sacrifice



AP

Boston Red Sox starter Josh Beckett reaches back to deliver a pitch against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of their Opening Day baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday April 7, 2009.

fly in the ninth inning and Toronto rallied to beat Detroit.

The Blue Jays trailed 3-0 after seven before Scott Rolen hit a solo homer and Aaron Hill connected for a go-ahead, three-run drive in the eighth.

B.J. Ryan (1-0) got the win despite allowing a tying homer to Brandon Inge in the ninth.

Twins 6, Mariners 5

At Minneapolis, Alexi Casilla's two-run single capped Minnesota's three-run rally with two outs in the ninth inning.

Brought in to protect a 5-3 lead, Seattle

closer Brandon Morrow (0-1) retired his first two batters before walking the bases loaded. Miguel Batista relieved and Denard Span chopped an RBI infield single to third that made it 5-4. Casilla lined the next pitch from Batista up the middle, scoring Brendan Harris and Brian Buscher.

Luis Ayala (1-0) allowed a run in the top of the ninth but earned his first win with the Twins. Michael Cuddyer had two RBIs for Minnesota, which trailed 4-0 after four innings.

Astros 3, Cubs 2

At Houston, Jeff Keppinger's broken-

bat single in the 10th inning off closer Kevin Gregg gave the Houston Astros a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Hunter Pence homered and Michael Bourn had an RBI single for the Astros, who carried a 2-1 lead into the eighth before Alfonso Soriano hit a long home run off LaTroy Hawkins.

Ivan Rodriguez opened the bottom of the 10th with an infield single down the third-base line, his first hit with Houston after starting the season 0-for-7. Lance Berkman followed with another single off Neal Cotts (0-1) before Cubs manager Lou Piniella brought in Gregg.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 3

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer and reached base five times to help St. Louis get its first win.

Pujols went 2-for-3 with two walks and also reached on an error after going 3-for-4 in Monday's season-opening 6-4 loss against the Pirates.

Chris Duncan and Yadier Molina also had two-run homers for St. Louis, which pounded out 12 hits against four Pittsburgh pitchers. Joe Thurston and Khalil Greene each had two RBIs. Colby Rasmus went 2-for-4 and scored twice in his major league debut.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 0

At Phoenix, Ubaldo Jimenez threw seven sparkling innings and Troy Tulowitzki homered for the second straight game, leading Colorado to the win.

Jimenez (1-0) gave up four hits, struck out eight and walked three in his first career victory over Arizona. He was 0-1 in four previous starts against the Diamondbacks despite a 2.77 ERA and 30 strikeouts in 26 innings.

Padres 4, Dodgers 2

At San Diego, Heath Bell rang in the post-Trevor Hoffman era in San Diego, striking out the side in the ninth inning to save the Padres' win.

It was the first save opportunity this season for Bell, promoted to closer after the awkward offseason departure of Hoffman, baseball's career saves leader.

After more than a decade of watching Hoffman jog in to AC/DC's "Hells Bells," fans in San Diego got a taste of Bell jogging to the mound in a heavy mist, accompanied by "Blow Me Away" by Breaking Benjamin, from the soundtrack to the video game Halo 2.

Braves 4, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Jair Jurrjens and four relievers combined on a six-hitter to lead the Braves past the Phillies. Kelly Johnson and Chipper Jones hit solo homers.

The defending World Series champions are off to an 0-2 start for the fourth straight year. They'll receive their rings before trying to avoid a three-game sweep on Wednesday.

Jurrjens (1-0) beat a pitcher twice his age, 46-year-old Jamie Moyer. The right-hander gave up four hits and walked three in 5 2-3 impressive innings.

Giants 10, Brewers 6

At San Francisco, Travis Ishikawa hit a three-run triple, Aaron Rowand had three RBIs and San Francisco overcame Tim Lincecum's struggles to get the win in the majors' final opener.

Rowand, Bengie Molina and Randy Winn homered for the Giants, whose 12-hit battering of Milwaukee's pitching more than made up for the shortest start of Lincecum's career. The NL Cy Young Award winner made it through just three innings, yielding three runs, four hits and three walks.

Marlins 8, Nationals 3

At Miami, Josh Johnson pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning and Florida got home runs from Jorge Cantu and Dan Uggla in a victory over Washington.

Two-run shots by Cantu and Uggla spoiled the return of Scott Olsen (0-1), chased early in his first regular-season game against the Marlins, who traded him in the offseason after drafting him in 2002.

Johnson (1-0) struck out eight and walked none, displaying the crisp pop on his fastball that could make him the ace of a promising young pitching staff. The right-hander came back from elbow surgery last July.

Butler, West shoot down Heat, 93-87



MIAMI (AP)—Rasual Butler hit a game-tying 3-pointer with no time remaining in regulation, David West hit the go-winning jumper with 8.8 seconds left in overtime, and New Orleans stunned the Miami Heat 93-87 on Tuesday night.

Chris Paul finished with 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Peja Stojakovic added 24 points for the Hornets (48-29), who not only clinched a postseason berth but stayed thickly in the hunt for home-court advantage in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs.

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points before getting ejected with 1.4 seconds remaining and Michael Beasley added 25 for Miami (41-37), which remained a half-game ahead of Philadelphia in the race for the No. 5 spot in the East postseason chase. The Heat fell three games behind Atlanta for the fourth seed in the East.

Bobcats 101, 76ers 98

At Charlotte, N.C., Gerald Wallace scored 29 points, including the final four of the game, and Charlotte snapped a three-game losing streak.

Raymond Felton scored a career-high 32 points and the Bobcats recovered after blowing a 20-point lead to improve their faint playoff hopes.

Coming off their worst loss and offensive performance Sunday in New Jersey, the Sixers overcame one of their poorest starts, only to falter down the stretch.

Hawks 118, Raptors 110

At Toronto, Josh Smith had 25 points and seven rebounds, and Atlanta used 11-for-22 shooting from 3-point range to beat Toronto.

The Hawks, trying to secure the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference, also got 25 points from Joe Johnson and 17 from Maurice Evans. Mike Bibby added 13 points and 10 assists, while Al Horford chipped in 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Spurs 99, Thunder 89

At Oklahoma City, Tim Duncan had 25 points and 15 rebounds, and Drew Gooden provided a needed lift off the bench for San Antonio in its first game since learning Manu Ginobili would miss the rest of the season.

Tony Parker added 21 points and 10 assists, while Gooden scored 20 points for his highest total since being picked up off waivers by the Spurs in early March.

Trail Blazers 96, Grizzlies 93

At Memphis, Tenn., Travis Outlaw banked in a 14-footer with 13 seconds left to complete Portland's comeback from an 18-point second-quarter deficit.

Brandon Roy, who scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter to key the Portland comeback, stole the ball from Memphis guard Mike Conley with 8 seconds left, then hit the ensuing two free throws to preserve the win.

Rockets 93, Magic 83

At Houston, Yao Ming had 20 points and 16 rebounds, outplaying Dwight Howard and leading Houston past Orlando.

Ron Artest had 16 points and matched a season high with seven assists, and reserve Von Wafer scored 14 points for the Rockets, who stayed a half-game behind San Antonio in the Southwest Division.

Howard had 13 points and 10 rebounds, but went 3-for-9 from the free-throw line for the Magic, who slipped one game behind second-place Boston in the Eastern Conference standings.

Bulls 110, Knicks 103

At Chicago, Kirk Hinrich scored 25 points to lead five players in double figures for Chicago.

The Bulls used a 15-0 run in the fourth to erase the Knicks' small, but steady lead, and then outlasted a late New York comeback by hitting their free throws.

Derrick Rose had 18 points and six assists, John Salmons scored 19, Tyrus

Thomas 18 and Ben Gordon 17 for the Bulls' balanced scoring attack.

Lakers 122, Kings 104

At Sacramento, Calif., Pau Gasol scored 26 points, Kobe Bryant added 22 and Los Angeles overcame a sluggish start to beat Sacramento and move within a half-game of Cleveland for the best record in the NBA.

Lamar Odom added 15 points and 11 rebounds, Trevor Ariza scored 14 points and Gasol had 12 rebounds to go with his 11-for-16 shooting against overmatched Sacramento. Los Angeles has won four straight since losing back-to-back games in Charlotte and Atlanta.

Timberwolves 87, Clippers 77

At Los Angeles, Ryan Gomes had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Craig Smith added 16 points, and Minnesota beat Los Angeles in a matchup of short-handed teams.

Eric Gordon scored 28 for the Clippers, who went without a basket for four-plus minutes to start the fourth quarter. Smith had seven consecutive points in the period to give the Timberwolves their biggest lead of the game, 78-62, with 10:18 remaining.

9th Annual PIC/Gatorade Tennis Championship



Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, Kirk Schuler, left, in action during his and Peter Loyola's title game against Guam's Lency Tenai and Torgun Smith in the men's open doubles.

Left, Neghar Rastgui, left, serves while teammate Amy Arenovski looks on during the title match in the girls' 14-and-under doubles.

Right, Guam Tennis Academy's Lency Tenai, left, and Torgun Smith exchange high fives after scoring a point in the men's open doubles finals.



Far right, Mixed doubles 4.0 runners-up Tishia Sonota, left, and Jonathan Frasco, right.



Girls' 14-and-under doubles champions Melody Johnson, center, and Theecel Minor, right, are joined by tournament director Lindsey Sosovec during the awards ceremony for the 9th Annual PIC/Gatorade Tennis Championships Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis court.



Women's open doubles runners-up Sally Wong, left, and Lydia Tan.



Women's open doubles first placers Thea Minor, left, and Cleofe Santos.



Boys' 10-and-under doubles winners Colin Ramsey, left, and Carl Dela Cruz.



Boys' 10-and-under doubles runners-up Clayton Izuka, left, and Alex Park.



Boys' 14-and-under champions Christian Miller, left, and Daniel Park.



Wanted: Challenger for Islanders

With the Islanders still reigning supreme in "Gorilla Games" in the World Organized Rockball Community League, organizer of the event is looking for the next worthy challenger.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

UConn wins NCAA title in 76-54 rout of Louisville

With one final blowout, UConn grabbed the national title and a piece of basketball history. Tina Charles had 25 points and grabbed 19 rebounds Tuesday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kensuke, Kai set records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kensuke Kimura and Kai Staal had their names written anew in the CNMI's swimming record books after competing in last weekend's Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club dual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Kimura recorded two new marks in the boys' 11 to 12 age group of last weekend's meet.

First to fall last weekend was the boys' 11 to 12 800m freestyle mark, as Kimura finished the race in 10 minutes, 5.85 seconds. Kimura bested by 18 seconds the previous record (10:23.35), which he himself set on October 18, 2008.

Kimura's new age group record in the 800m freestyle swim got a four A mark in the US Swimming Standard Time. A four A time is the highest level in the National Age Group Times progression. It is equivalent to 97 percent of the National Top 16 Reportable Time, known as NRT Times or T16 Times.

NRT represents a level that a swimmer must surpass to submit his name for consideration on the annual Top 16 list. The annual rankings (short course and long course) are published in *Swimming World* magazine and each qualifier receives a certificate of recognition from USA Swimming. Swimmers earn-

See KENSUKE on Page 26



Kensuke Kimura



Kai Staal

Hyatt vs. Aqua in Tinian caging finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Hyatt Regency Saipan and Aqua Resort Club recorded contrasting wins Monday night at the Tinian Municipal

Gymnasium to arrange their title duel in the 2009 Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League.

Hyatt pulled off a come-from-behind 96-92 win over Pacific Islands Club to notch the first finals seat, while Aqua Resort Club advanced to the championship game after dominating Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan/Saipan Grand Hotel, 97-92.

Behind by 10 at the end of the third period, 58-68, Jericho Cruz and Bernard Aquino brought Hyatt back into the game. Cruz fired 16 of his 27 points in the payoff period, while Aquino nailed 14, as Hyatt outgunned PIC, 38-14, in the final canto to steal the win.

PIC led by eight in the first quarter, 24-16, as James Abuy canned three early triples and Ryan Sanciango added eight points. PIC kept the driver's seat at halftime, 42-37, with forward Darwin Barbo asserting his might in the paint and making seven points in the second period.

Barbo picked up where he left off in the third, adding 10 more points, while Sanciango was also on target in that period, scoring eight to give PIC a double-digit lead, entering the fourth quarter.

Unfortunately, Barbo went cold in the crucial fourth period, drilling only four free throws, and Sanciango was the only PIC player to make more than a field goal in the last quarter. Sanciango had 10 points, but it was not

See HYATT on Page 26

Dibens, Gardner upbeat about XTERRA chances

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Two professional triathletes from England, Julie Dibens and Sam Gardner, are upbeat about their chances in next week's 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Dibens and Gardner were seen watching the McDonald's All Schools qualifier among students from different schools on Saipan yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Dibens, the current XTERRA World champion, said she is in top shape for the April 18 race considered as the crown jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour.

The 34-year-old pro is looking forward for her first XTERRA win on Saipan.

Dibens won the world championships in Maui, Hawaii for the second time last October. She won the Tagaman Triathlon in 2007 but finished only second to Renata Bucher of Switzerland that year.

Dibens just came from another win in Guam, where she beat Bucher in the XTERRA series there.

She predicted that it would be another neck-and-neck battle for the two women in the XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Dibens said she did not compete last year because of several other international commitments.

See DIBENS on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

British pro triathletes Julie Dibens and Sam Gardner show that they are in top shape for the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire and Independents players in action during the opening of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United Blue, Paire top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MP United U8 Blue and Paire Football Club were off to a good start in the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League, which kicked off last Saturday in various fields on Saipan.

MP United U8 Blue dueled sister team U8 Silver at the Garapan Elementary School Field, according to club coordinator Tina Goodwin.

"A very hot day did not prevent the enthusiastic kids from playing hard for two halves," Goodwin said.

MP United U8 Silver had several chances to score with Jamin Elliot, Ken

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